■ Business / B1

Peso continues rally, hits 54.15:$1

■ World / A10

Italy PM disputes US version of Iraq shooting of hostage

■ Sports / A25

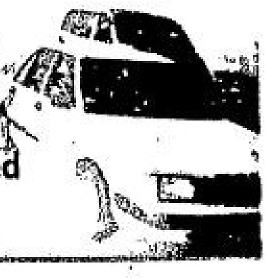
Manny Pacquiao's 'Manila Ice' weapon is a right hook

■ News / A6

Another Bayan Muna leader killed

■ Metro / A23

Carless Day program launched in Marikina



Gonzalez's axiom: If you can't lick it, ignore it

ISNABIN!
DEADMA!
KEBS!

By Armand N. Nocum

IF YOU can't lick it, ignore it.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he could not figure out why there was such a big fuss over the results of a survey

GONZALEZ'S/ A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Hong Kong's leader resigns after 8 turbulent years

HONG KONG—Hong Kong's leader yesterday announced his resignation because of failing health, but denied that China had pushed him out because of his poor performance during eight years in office—a time of economic woes, massive protests and calls for greater democracy.

After ignoring 10 days of rumors that he

HONG KONG'S / A22

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Friday, March 11, 2005 ★★ 86 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 93 P18

website: www.inq7.net

Was it cyanide or rat poison in cassava?

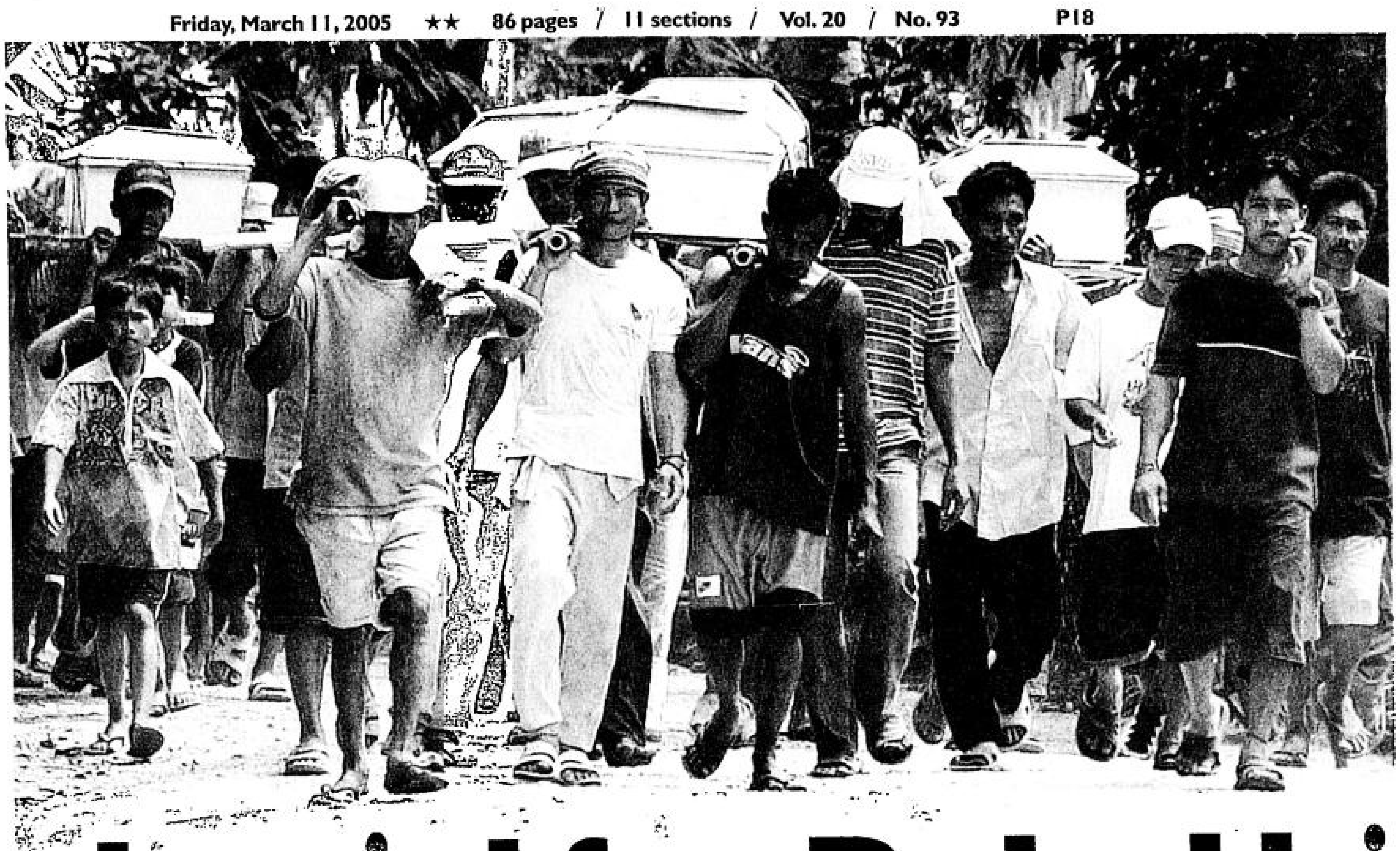
By Chito A. Fuentes, Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Was it cyanide in cassava, rat poison or a crop insecticide?

Health and agriculture officials in Central Visayas are looking into one of these toxic substances as the likely cause of the death of at least 26 schoolchildren from food poisoning after eating fried cassava in Mabini, Bohol, on Wednesday.

Health regional director Rosario Benabaye, who was in Mabini yesterday together with a three-member team led by the department's regulatory division

WAS IT/ A21



WEIGHED down by grief, the menfolk of Barangay San Jose in Mabini, Bohol, embark on a grim march to bury their dead. It was only on Wednesday that 26 schoolchildren aged 7 to 13 died after snacking on fried cassava, a root crop that is poisonous if not cooked properly. As many as 105 others remain in hospital for treatment of severe stomach pains and diarrhea. AP

Mass burial for Bohol kids

GMA visits Mabini, declares state of calamity in town

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

MABINI, Bohol—The whole town wept as it started to bury its angels.

"There is no one among us here who is happy," Mayor Stephen Rances declared in his brief eulogy before 12 coffins inside the tiny chapel of Barangay San Jose, a tightly knit farming community of 316 households.

Anisita Luyong stared with bloodshot eyes at a makeshift white coffin adorned with pink flowers as it was being carried to the chapel.

Inside the plywood box was a friend of her 7-year-old son Wilfredo Luyong, himself one of the 26 pupils at the tiny San Jose Elementary School who died after eating sugar-coated cassava fries on Wednesday.

Earlier, authorities had erroneously placed the death toll at 28.

Government officials said 105 other victims were recovering in hospitals on the island of Bohol.

"They will never be able to play again, except maybe in heaven," Luyong told Agence France-Presse, fighting to hold back her tears while she held her other child, a curly haired, 4-year-old girl who kept asking, "Where is brother?"

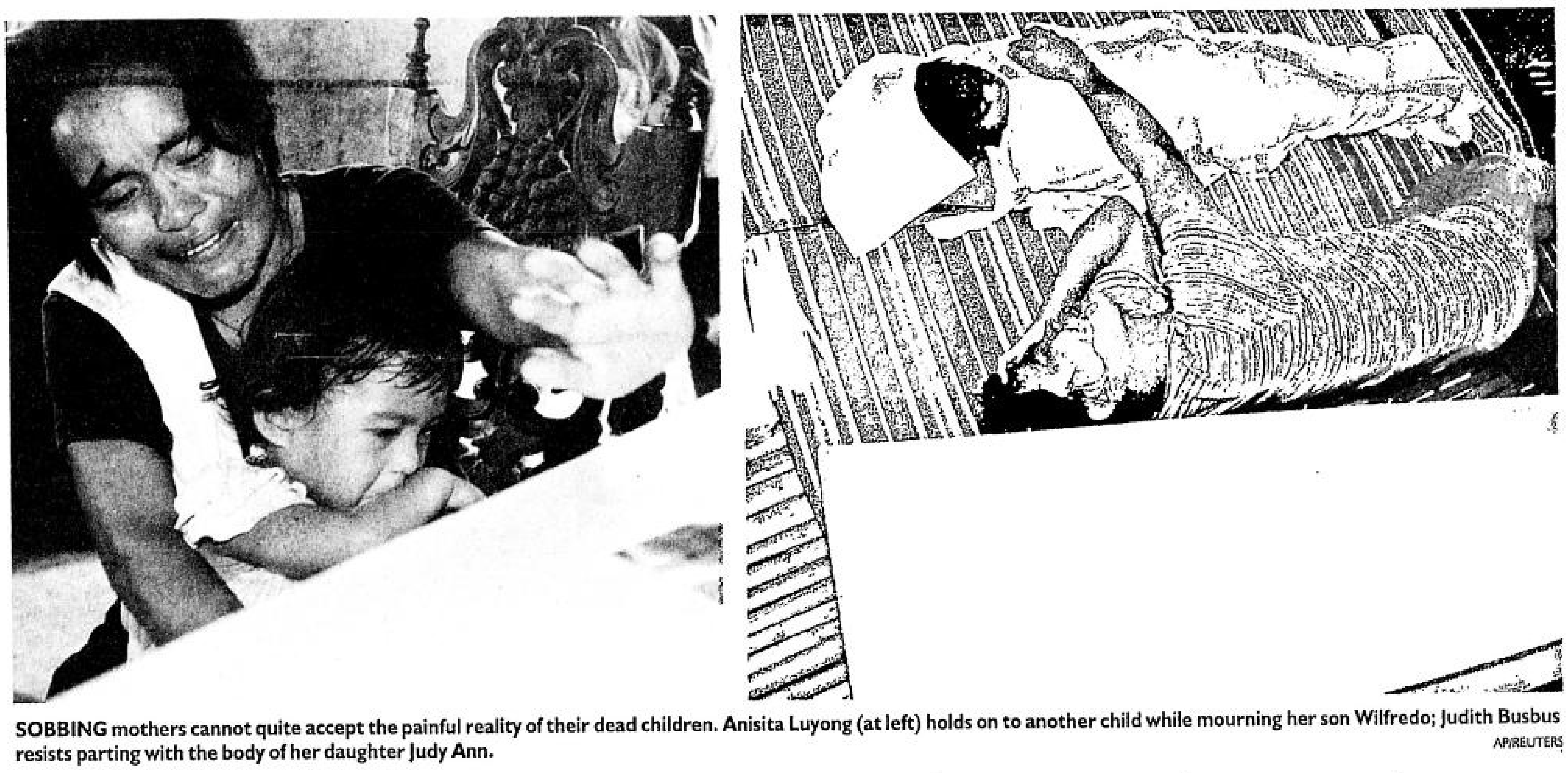
"He didn't even know what hit him. He just ate *balanghoy* (cassava) and he died," Luyong said. "Sometimes, it just isn't fair."

Wilfredo, she said, would not be buried until Sunday because his father, Wilfredo Sr., was out of town looking for work.

The boy's undecorated coffin waited forlornly in a corner of the family's small house cobbled together from cinder blocks.

The family had pinned their

MASS/ A21



SOBBING mothers cannot quite accept the painful reality of their dead children. Anisita Luyong (at left) holds on to another child while mourning her son Wilfredo; Judith Busbus resists parting with the body of her daughter Judy Ann.

AP/REUTERS

Barbers accused of diverting relief goods

Ex-senator laughs off charge: It happened 'too long ago'

By Fe Zamora

FIFTY-THREE bales of used clothing intended for the poor and victims of disasters were diverted to the house of former Sen. Robert Barbers in Surigao City, violating the rules on distribution of relief goods, according to a report by corruption watchdog G-Watch.

Barbers, who failed in his reelection bid in May 2004, allegedly coursed his request for the used clothing through the office of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) in Manila.

The former senator, however, just laughed off the complaint, saying it happened "too long ago."

"There may have been lapses in the procedures, but the motive was just to hasten the distribution of relief goods," Barbers said through a former spokesperson. The former senator was at his home in Surigao City.

The delivery of the used clothing to Barbers was among the many transactions of the DWSD uncovered by G-Watch in its review of DSWD reports.

G-Watch, which is part of the Coalition Against Corruption, has also monitored the Department of Health, Department of Public Works and Highways, and Department of Education.

The group has recommended that the Office of the Ombudsman further investigate Barbers and the DSWD personnel who may have violated the guidelines for the distribution of relief good.

G-Watch said the release of the 53 bales of used clothing to Barbers violated Administrative Order No. 53 of the Omnibus Guidelines for the Processing and Management of Donations.

BARBERS/ A21

Population bill fight turns nasty

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christian V. Esguerra

THE CONTROVERSY over the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005 has turned nasty—and its proponents are crying foul.

But Rep. Edcel Lagman (Aksyon Demokratiko, Albay) was quick to deny that the measure, otherwise known as House Bill No. 3773, was nothing more than a technical guide for sexual enjoyment, as an altered version of the bill would make it appear.

Except for Lagman, principal author of HB 3773, members of the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. received on Wednesday envelopes containing an "erroneous" copy of the bill complete with a page of illustrations of a couple engaged in sexual acts. The page bore the label "Sample graphic sex educa

POPULATION, A2

BIR trains guns on celebrities, sues columnist

By Michelle V. Ren
and Armand N. Nocum

UNVEILING its new program against tax evaders with a bang, the government yesterday filed criminal charges against a fitness columnist-cum-television host and a popular "doctor to the stars" in the Department of Justice.

Charged were Cristina Aboitiz-Juan, a lifestyle columnist of the INQUIRER and owner of Fitness by Design Inc., and Dr. Joel Cortez Mendez, owner of Mendez Body and Face Salons and Spas, and the Mendez Medical Group.

As part of the RATE (Run After Tax Evaders) program, the Department of Finance (DOF) and Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) plan to file cases against "affluent tax evaders" every week, according to revenue officials.

"We want to send the message that the nonpayment of taxes is no longer acceptable. So we are going to file tax evasion cases once a week, every week," Emmanuel P. Bonoan, finance undersecretary for revenue operations, said at a news briefing.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said the government would regularly file tax evasion cases against media and business personalities.

"Our action today, and in the weeks and months to come, will prove to doubting Thomases that we are serious in running after tax evaders. We will use the powers vested in us by law to do our job in helping the country recover," Purisima told reporters.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. told reporters that the filing of charges against Aboitiz-Juan and Mendez signaled the start of the RATE program.

DOF and BIR executives said the accused were found liable for the nonfiling of tax returns and nonpayment of taxes in violation of the National Internal Revenue Code.

Juan was charged along with six partners in their firm Fitness

BIR TRAINS/ A22

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/11/05

Second FrontPage
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Gov't to take title to Marcos assets

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it would move to transfer the titles to the seized Marcos properties to the name of the government, as its efforts to get the heirs of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos to cough up the P42 billion in unpaid taxes had failed.

"The Marcoses still have not paid [up], so we are forcing collection," BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said at a press briefing yesterday.

Last year, the BIR attempted to auction off the real estate properties it had seized from the Marcoses, but there were no takers.

Parayno believed the properties failed to attract any buyers because of concerns that there could be ownership problems in the future.

"We will move to consolidate the properties in the name of the Republic of the Philippines. When the titles are in the name of the republic, then we will sell them again," he said.

Once the titles are transferred, the BIR could expect to easily sell the properties, he added.

The properties include parcels of land in Leyte, a resort in Ilocos, a house and lot in San Juan, Metro Manila, and an apartment in Las Piñas City.

The BIR will submit documents to the Registry of Deeds to register the properties in the name of the Philippine government, said BIR Deputy Commissioner Licerio Evangelista, who heads the BIR's prosecution team.

The properties were formally seized by the BIR after the Supreme Court affirmed in 1999 the revenue agency's authority to take the assets as payment for the Marcoses' unpaid tax liabilities.

The multibillion-peso tax liabilities of the Marcos family included P23 billion in unpaid estate taxes and P19 billion in unpaid income taxes from 1968 to 1989.

But Evangelista said that even if the BIR were able to sell all the seized properties, the amount would fall short of the family's P42-billion tax liability.

Therefore, the BIR would continue to look for other properties of the Marcos heirs that it can seize to fully cover the P42 billion, Parayno said.

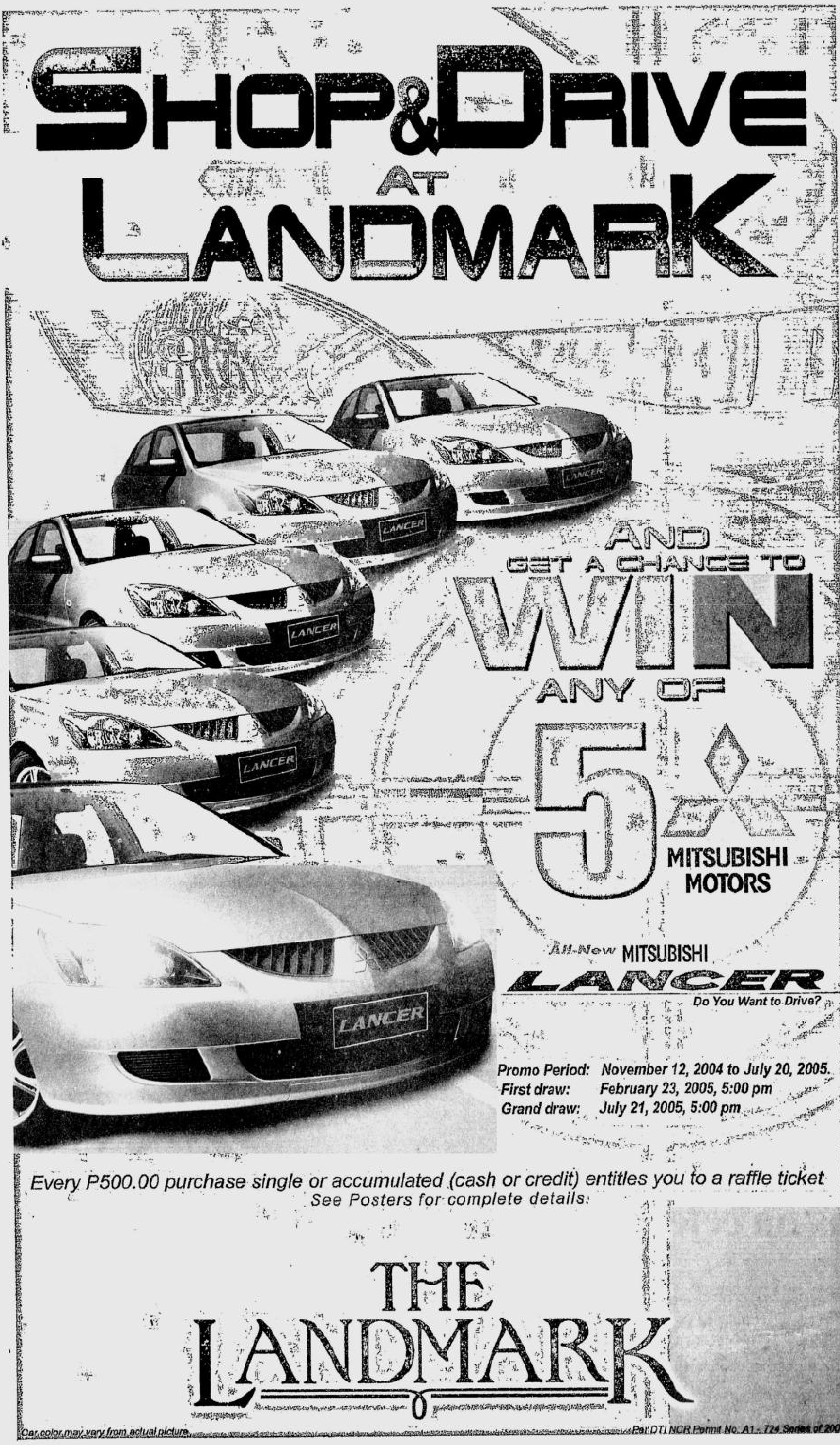
But he said the bureau would have to make sure the properties it will confiscate were not ill-gotten because if the properties were proven to be government-owned, then taxes cannot be imposed on them.

Also, any assets discovered to be ill-gotten have to be turned over to the Presidential Commission on Good Government, he added.

The government earlier expressed interest in entering into a compromise agreement with the Marcos heirs for the settlement of their tax obligations. But neither party had taken any major step to settle the issue.

The BIR said it would strengthen its efforts to collect from the Marcoses this year as it was hard-pressed to raise revenues for the government.

The agency has to to collect P546.9 billion in taxes this year to help the national government keep the budget deficit below its target of P180 billion.



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Solon says lack of judges adds to graft problem

By Michael Lim Ubac

FILIPINOS should not be surprised by the worsening incidence of graft because 692 judges' posts are vacant, according to Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan.

Over dinner Tuesday night with INQUIRER editors and staff, Pangilinan said the wheels of justice were turning exceedingly slow with only 1,461 of the 2,153 judges' posts occupied.

He said there was a 90-percent vacancy in the first judicial level—the metropolitan trial courts and municipal circuit courts—and "judges are made to man three to four courts."

Apart from the delay in the resolution of cases, the system of reward and punishment is not working, said Pangilinan, a lawyer and member of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

With only a few magistrates to hear cases involving petty and heinous crimes, people can expect unresolved cases to pile up and hearings to last from three to five years, he said, adding:

"If you punish more people, then people will have more respect for the law. But with too few judges to dispense justice, criminals and grafters will continue with their illicit activities."

Pangilinan said it was not the severity of the punishment but its "certainty and swiftness" that would deter government officials, their accomplices in the private sector and others from committing graft.

He said that as things stood, citizens were being encouraged to commit graft and other crimes with impunity "How many big fish have we charged, sent to jail and convicted?" he said.

But all is not lost.

Pangilinan said the Supreme Court was doing its part because last year alone, it punished 56 judges, or an average of one judge per week, for delays in the resolution of cases and ignorance of the law.

Congress, for its part, has passed a compensation bill increasing the take-home pay of judges by 100 percent. Things are expected to change within three years with the full implementation of the compensation law, which provides for other benefits to officers of the bench.

"We have a deluge of applicants for judgeship because of this," Pangilinan said. But he said the JBC had yet to streamline the application process that usually took eight months.

Two members of the House, meanwhile, yesterday debunked the survey of foreign businessmen that listed the Philippines as the second most corrupt country in Asia, saying it was based more on perception and not on facts.

Representatives Isidoro Real (Lakas, Zamboanga del Sur), vice chair of the committee on good government, and Vincent Garcia (NPC, Davao City), member of the committee on rules, said the Philippines had been a victim of negative perception since the ouster of Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

The two lawmakers said the 900 foreign businessmen polled were apparently also swayed by negative media reports on corruption in the Philippine military and other cases.

Real said the survey results should not be cause for panic because of the anticorruption reforms being implemented by the Arroyo administration.

Proposed water use tax draws protest

MILITANT groups yesterday protested a government proposal to tax water usage, saying it would have a "disastrous effect on the livelihood of farmers."

They said the government had no right to tax water consumers, especially farmers, as it cannot even provide irrigation to all farm lands and deliver water to all households.

The National Water Resources Board said it was considering charging a fee for the use of raw water—derived from the ground, rivers, lakes and other resources—to raise revenues to fund water resources development and compel consumers to conserve the increasingly scarce resource.

"The only source of water for our crops is the natural ones, like ground water, rivers, lakes and streams. By doing this, the government will add another burden on our almost breaking backs," said Willy Marbella, spokesperson of the Kilusan ng Magbubukid sa Pilipinas.

Blanche S. Rivera

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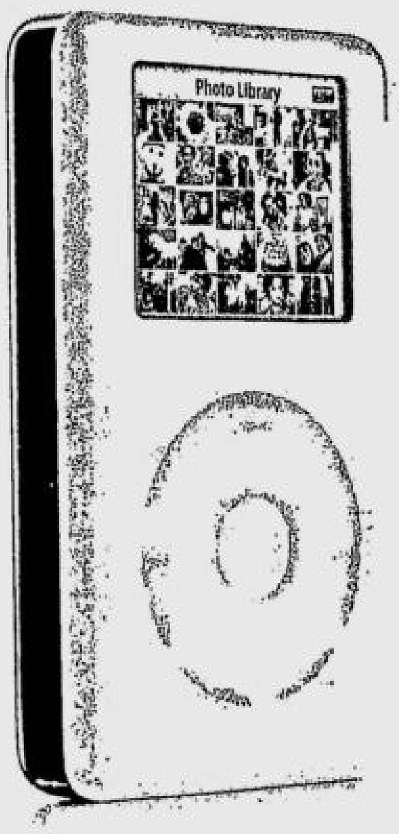

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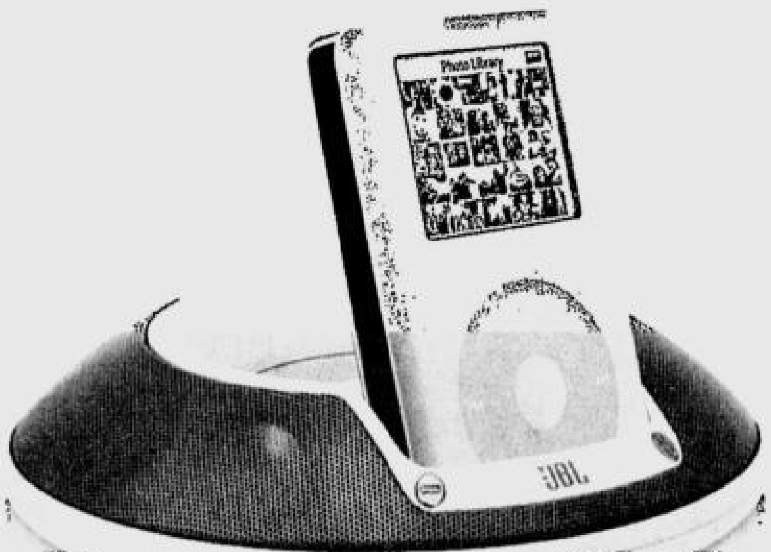

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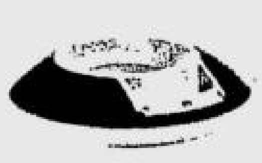

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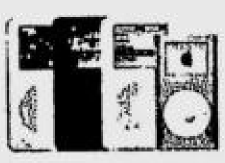

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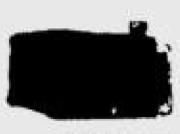

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10 Abu suspects killed in fresh fighting

JOLO, Sulu—Up to 10 suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits were killed as violence flared up anew in at least two towns here beginning Tuesday afternoon, the military said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza, Southern Command chief, said that yesterday alone, five bandits were killed while five others were captured in separate clashes in Patikul and Parang towns.

He said the first clash in Patikul was triggered by the mopping up operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

He said Marines were on patrol in Barangay Danak at around 6:30 a.m. when they encountered an undetermined number of bandits.

6 wounded

Aside from killing five suspects and capturing five others, Braganza said the Marines wounded at least six Abu Sayyaf gunmen and recovered five firearms, including a grenade launcher.

No casualties on the government side were reported.

At around 10:30 a.m. yesterday, Braganza said Abu Sayyaf gunmen wounded at least four soldiers from the Army's 33rd Infantry Battalion during a clash in Barangay Lanao Dacula, Parang. He believed the bandits also suffered casualties.

It was the second heavy fire-fight in Parang between soldiers and the bandit group.

On Tuesday afternoon, five bandits were killed in the same area, according to Brig. Gen. Agustin Dema-ala, commander of joint Task Force Comet.

Dema-ala said two soldiers were wounded in the nearly three hours of heavy fighting in Barangay Lanao Dakula.

2 battalions

Dema-ala said joint forces of the ASG under commander Albader Parad and followers of Nur Misuari led by commander Hadon Adak tried to recapture their camp from the military.

"I have already dispatched two more battalions to the area," he said.

Braganza said the military expects more clashes in Sulu as the manhunt continues for the Abu Sayyaf and the followers of the jailed Misuari.

"We expect more encounters as the local terrorists along with some Misuari followers have splintered into six groups," Braganza said.

He said the military would not stop until the followers of Misuari, erstwhile governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and their Abu Sayyaf allies had been captured or neutralized.

More than 100 people, 34 of them soldiers, have been killed since fighting resumed last month, displacing more than 50,000 civilians.

Troy Malcolm and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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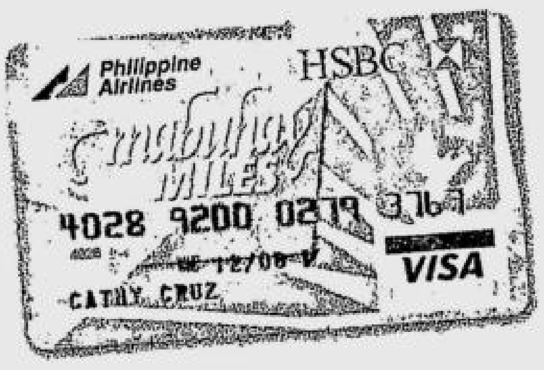
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Another Bayan leader killed

A LONE gunman shot dead Romeo Sanchez, a leader of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), in the crowded Baguio City public market late Wednesday, the latest in a long list of members of the militant group killed or abducted in the past two months.

Leaders of Bayan Muna, Bayan's party-list group, said they were alarmed at the string of violent acts directed against them and accused the military of carrying out "a well-laid out plan to annihilate" the group.

Political detainee

"The incidents are staggering. At this rate, there are two Bayan Muna members either killed or abducted every 10 days," said Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño.

Sanchez, 39, a former political detainee, was Bayan secretary general for Ilocos. He was one of 14 suspects, known as the Abra 14, in the 1999 killing of rebel priest Conrado Balweg, the head of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army.

Members of the communist New People's Army claimed responsibility for Balweg's murder in Malibcong, Abra, on Dec. 31, 1999.

Sanchez's wife, Elvie, said her husband had breakfast with the family on Wednesday at their house in San Fernando, La Union, before going to a women's forum in Agoo.

"He was an ideal husband and father," she added.

Senior Supt. Isagani Nerez, Baguio police chief, has formed a task force to go after the killer. He said investigators were looking at several angles, including internal quarrels within Sanchez's organization.

The killing could have also been connected to the murder of Balweg, Nerez said, but did not elaborate.

Work-related

The type of gun used in the killing was very popular among hit men in the early 1980s, he said.

Avelino Dacanay, a colleague of Sanchez, said the killing may have been work-related. He also did not elaborate.

He said Sanchez had been actively promoting the rights of tobacco farmers and fishermen in Ilocos.

On May 18, 2000, Sanchez and a colleague, Nomer Kuan, were arrested by Armed Forces intelligence agents after being identified as suspects in the killing of Balweg.

Torture

Sanchez, in an interview with the INQUIRER in 2000, said they were subjected to psychological and physical torture to force them to admit responsibility for the murder despite the NPA's admission.

Sanchez and Kuan were released from the Abra provincial jail after a local court dismissed the case for lack of evidence.

A woman companion of Sanchez at the public market said she was unable to identify the gunman because the market was too crowded..

"We went to an *ukay-ukay* shop because Sanchez wanted to buy some clothes for his five children. There were three of us together, then we heard a gunshot. I just saw him fall beside me. He was bleeding," she said.

Sanchez died a few minutes later, she said.

Joan Carling, chair of the Cordillera People's Alliance, said Sanchez had been getting threats through text messages.

Bayan yesterday blamed the spate of deaths among militants on the government's alleged "vilification campaign" against activists.

"Is there a government policy to kill activists belonging to Bayan, Bayan Muna and its other allied organizations? We fear that the military is going on a killing spree, shooting prominent leaders of the progressive movement," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes, Jr.

Military blamed

Bayan blamed the military for the killings which the group said had claimed 12 lives in Central Luzon over the past two months.

It said there were also five leaders and activists still missing in the region, including Dan Macapagal, former secretary general of Bayan Nueva Ecija. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora*

DFA advises calm in Tarongoy case

DON'T speculate on Robert Tarongoy's case.

This was the appeal of the Department of Foreign Affairs to media after the Iraqi abductors of the Filipino worker released for the first time a video showing that he was still alive since his capture on Nov. 1, 2004.

In the video aired by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera Arab television network on Tuesday, Tarongoy was garbed in an orange outfit, the same clothes worn by hostages later executed by their Iraqi captors.

The hostage-takers also demanded that the Philippines recall all its Filipino workers in Iraq and stop whatever cooperation it was giving to the United States, which heads the coalition that ousted former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Aside from Philippine officials in Doha, Qatar, Filipinos were also able to monitor the video on Cairo television.

Both the DFA and Malacañang had said a high-level team of negotiators was doing its best to secure the release of Tarongoy, a 31-year-old accountant.

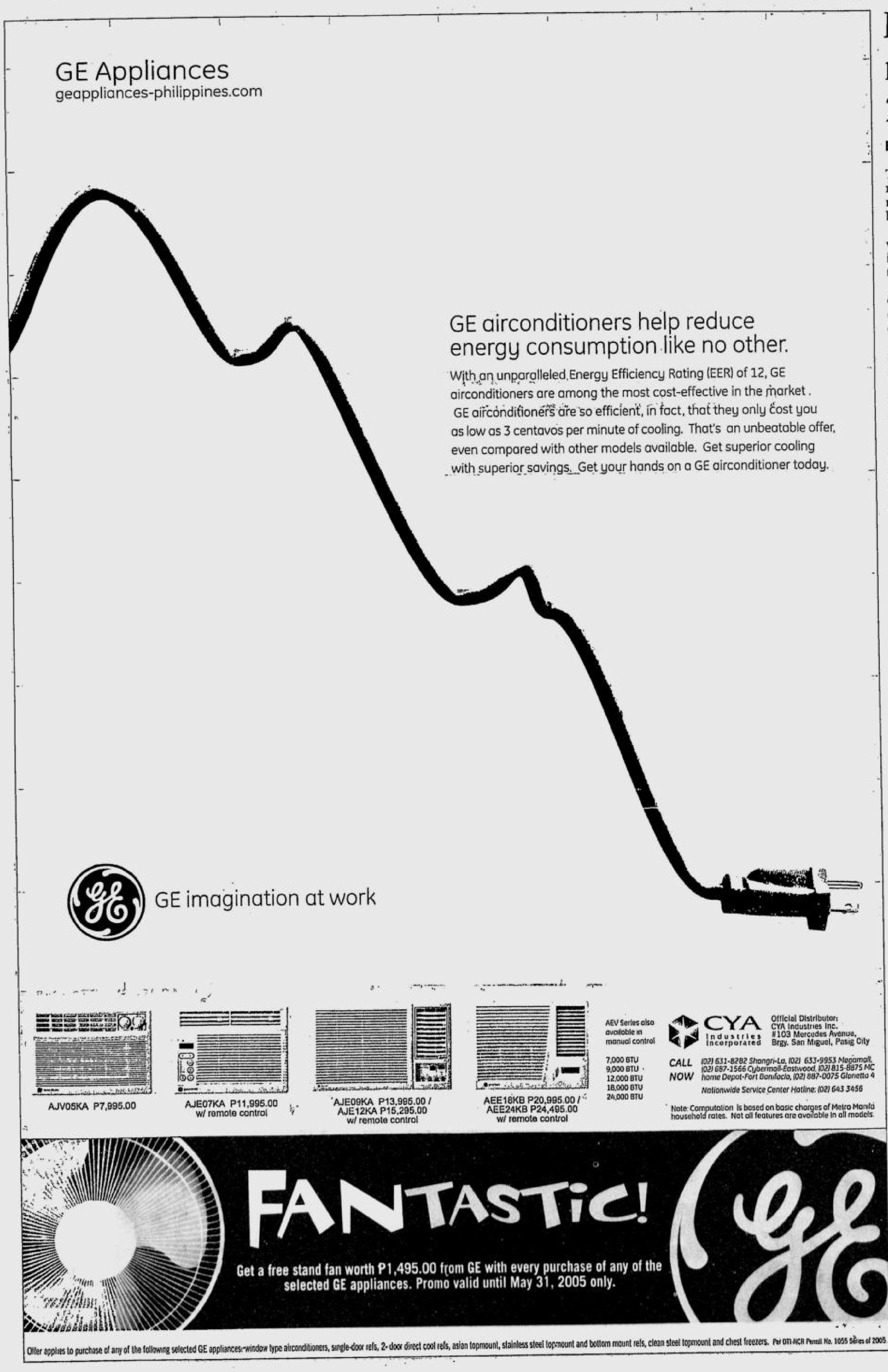
"We are hoping that their efforts will be successful, that's why we are asking the media not to speculate on these," DFA spokesperson Gilbert Asuque told a press conference.

Asuque said Team Iraq, led by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis, was in constant coordination with intermediaries in Baghdad as part of its efforts to get Tarongoy back alive.

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the "effort on Tarongoy continues."

"There is proof that he is indeed alive," Ermita told reporters, in reference to the long months of silence by Tarongoy's abductors. He said the negotiations for the release had also been delayed by the holding of elections in Iraq in January.

Ermita, however, said that in his last conversation with Seguis "he keeps telling me that it's just a matter of time, a matter of time." *Nikko Dizon with Christine O. Avendaño*



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Magdalo Group mutineers oust 2 trial officers

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE MILITARY trial of the Oakwood mutineers suffered a "setback" yesterday after the rebel officers succeeding in ousting two members of the tribunal hearing their case.

The 29 leaders of the takeover of the Oakwood luxury apartment-hotel in Makati City in July 2003 thus caused the postponement of their arraignment.

The officers who called themselves the Magdalo Group were to be arraigned yesterday on charges of violating Article of War 96 for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

But before the arraignment could take place, two of them invoked their right of "peremptory challenge" under military court rules.

It is the right of an accused before the start of trial to expel any one member of the court-martial, except its law member. The accused need not explain their choice.

Navy Lt.(sg) Antonio Trillanes IV, leader of the Magdalo Group, demanded the ouster of Brig. Gen. Ferdinand Bocobo, president of the military tribunal.

Bocobo, who had presided over the trial the past 16 months, stoically accepted Trillanes' challenge.

"Since there is a peremptory challenge on my behalf, I excuse myself. The next senior officer will take over with five (remaining court) members," said Bocobo, who left the room without ceremony.

When his name was called, Magdalo member Marine Capt. Gary Alejano "peremptorily challenged" Bocobo's successor, Col. Jose Recuenco.

The second ouster left the court-martial one member short of a quorum.

Military prosecutors said the arraignment would be deferred until the Armed Forces chief of staff appoints replacements.

"Yes, it could be considered a setback," said chief prosecutor Maj. Julius Magno.

Magno said Bocobo could still preside over the trial of the 250 other young officers and enlisted men who joined the attempted coup and were charged with five violations of the Articles of War for their alleged role in the Oakwood mutiny.

But civilian defense lawyer Roel Pulido said Bocobo was out of the trial. "The court can no longer be called the Bocobo court. He has no hold over the court anymore," he said.

Corrections

THE BANNER story on the front page in the March 8 issue—"Cordillera seen as 3rd logging area"—and a front page story in the March 9 issue—"Gov't may allow logging in Cordillera, says GMA"—misstated the name of the region in northern Luzon. The acronym CAR stands for Cordillera Administrative Region—not Cordillera Autonomous Region.

* * *

IN THE MARCH 8 issue, the third paragraph of a story on Page A3—"Fernandez child sides with mom"—misquoted Ma. Bianca R. Fernandez, daughter of ex-basketball star Ramon Fernandez. It was Bianca—not her mother Marissa—whom Ramon had ordered to apologize to the "other woman" for having engaged her in a text conversation.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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DTI Permit No. 1267 Series of 2005

Witnesses reveal Garcia deposits

By Dona Pazzibugan

TWO branch managers of the Land Bank of the Philippines yesterday testified before a military tribunal that Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia (ret.) had more than P6 million deposited in the state-owned bank, which prosecutors said he failed to declare in his Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALN).

Evangeline Balboa, manager of the LBP branch in Greenhills, San Juan, presented to the court Garcia's bank statement which showed a balance of P4,694,647.11 as of March 31, 2004.

The account was opened on June 6, 2001, Balboa said.

Emerina Reyes, acting manager of the LBP branch in Camp Aguinaldo, the military's headquarters, said Garcia had deposits there of P1,666,795.35.

She said the account was opened on Jan. 16, 2001, with a beginning balance of P5,000.

By June 11, 2003 the balance had risen to P136,874.07 and by March 30, 2004, it had ballooned to P1,653,325.69.

Garcia's lawyer, Constantino de Jesus, tried to block the presentation of the bank documents, invoking the Bank Secrecy Law.

But the prosecutor, Lt. Col. Al Perreras, said Garcia's case was "an exception because the money is the subject of litigation."

The military court's lawyer-member, Col. Caridad Aguilar, upheld the prosecution. "We have jurisdiction (over the account)," she said.

Garcia, a former Armed Forces comptroller, is being court-martialed for corruption. He is charged with violation of provisions 96 and 97 of the Articles of War, which refer to conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman, and conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline, respectively.

Other witnesses previously testified that Garcia had a P6.5-million deposit with the Armed Forces Police Savings and Loans Association Inc. (AFPSLAI) and an apartment unit in New York City.

In the last hearing, the military showed a certification from the United States Embassy that said Garcia had a "green card" giving him immigrant status in the US.

Upon questioning by court president Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, Reyes agreed that it was possible that the deposits could have been credited to Garcia's account without his knowledge.

She conceded that it was possible that people other than Garcia could have deposited the money in his account.

Defense lawyers could be seen nodding their heads in agreement.

But prosecutor Capt. Karen Ong countered that a person would need to know Garcia's account number before he or she could deposit money in his account.

In a related development, the Office of the Solicitor General has asked the Supreme Court not to grant a petition from Garcia asking the high court to set aside an earlier resolution of the Court of Appeals freezing Garcia's P185-million worth of assets for having been allegedly illegally acquired.

In a 34-page comment, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti-Money Laundering Council had confirmed the existence of "probable cause" that the deposits and properties constituted Garcia's "unlawful acts," making him liable for graft.

The CA earlier issued an order freezing Garcia's assets. Instead of going to the CA, Garcia went to the high tribunal asking that it ask the CA to set aside its freeze order.

He claimed that the CA "committed grave abuse of discretion in issuing the freeze order" because "it failed to make an independent determination of the probable cause before the freeze order was issued."

Benipayo said that "there is nothing in the law that requires the (CA) to personally examine the applicant and its witnesses before a freeze order may be issued."

All the CA is "required to do is satisfy itself, based on the documents submitted before it, of the existence of probable cause," he said.

There was ample evidence of Garcia's guilt, he said. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

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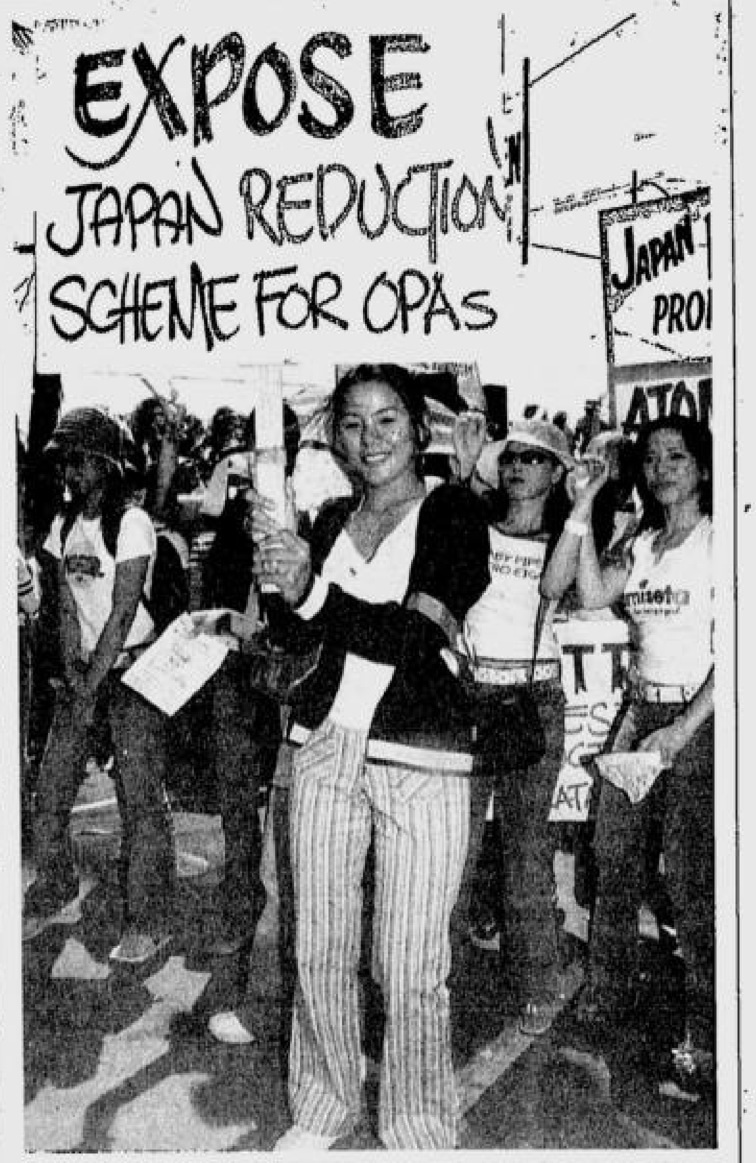
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LET US ENTERTAIN YOU. Filipino overseas performing artists stage a rally before the Japanese Embassy yesterday to protest Tokyo's more stringent qualifications for foreign entertainers entering Japan. ERIK ARAZAS

Animals' best friend cited

AN ADVOCATE of animal welfare and protection was recognized for her work in Puerto Princesa during the city's 133rd Foundation Day celebration on March 4.

Mayor Edward Hagedorn presented the Mayor's Award to Jackie Baut, the founder and moving force behind the Palawan Animal Welfare Association (Pawa) established in 2000.

Pawa was also given a cash prize of P50,000 toward the purchase of a vehicle for use in the transport of dogs and cats for neutering.

"I am very proud of this award," Baut told the INQUIRER on Wednesday. "I am also grateful to the people who helped me carry out projects for the welfare of animals, especially in Puerto Princesa."

Baut, a Belgian national, has worked closely with the local government in pushing for the passage of the Carabao Protection Ordinance; the neutering of stray dogs and cats, and the humane treatment of animals in slaughterhouses.

She was instrumental in making the city pound more liveable for captured strays.

Baut said the Mayor's Award had further encouraged her to persevere in working for animal welfare.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, March 11, 2005
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: Wis 2:1,12-22
Gospel: John 7:1-2,10,25-30

Jesus went around Galilee; he would not go about in Judea because the Jews wanted to kill him. Now the Jewish feast of the Tents was at hand.

But after his brothers had gone to the festival, he also went up, not publicly but in secret.

Some of the people of Jerusalem said, "Is this not the man they want to kill? And here he is speaking freely, and they don't say a word to him? Can it be that the rulers know that this is really the Christ? Yet we know where this man comes from; but when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from."

So Jesus announced in a loud voice in the Temple court where he was teaching, "You say that you know me and know where I come from! I have not come of myself; I was sent by the One who is true, and you don't know him. I know him for I come from him and he sent me."

They would have arrested him, but no one laid hands on him because his time had not yet come.

Commentary

Jesus goes around Galilee but he knows that there are those who want to kill him. Even so, he goes up to the feast in Jerusalem, but in secret. He preaches and the people know that he has spoken in such a way that he is a wanted man and they are aware that he speaks freely and they do nothing publicly against him. But the people think they know him and his family and so do not believe Jesus' words. He is blunt: You do not know me or where I come from! I was sent by the One who is true and you don't know him. They want to arrest him but are afraid. Lord, we are afraid often of the truth and especially when it is directed at us and we are convicted of being lacking in belief, in knowledge and even of having a relationship with you. We are so sure of ourselves and in reality—we do not know you or the One who is true that has sent you. Teach, O Truth, and make us courageous in standing with you against anyone who would kill or lie or use religion to validate what they do.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Real and personal actions—In a real action, the plaintiff seeks the recovery of real property, or as provided for in Section 1, Rule 4, a real action is an action affecting title to or possession of real property, or interest therein. These include partition or condemnation of, or foreclosure of mortgage on, real property. The venue for real actions is the same for regional trial courts and municipal trial courts—the court which has territorial jurisdiction over the area where the real property or any part thereof lies. Personal action is one brought for the recovery of personal property, for the enforcement of some contract or recovery of damages for its breach, or for the recovery of damages for the commission of an injury to the person or property. The venue for personal actions is likewise the same for the regional and municipal trial courts—the court of the place where the plaintiff or any of the principal plaintiffs resides, or where the defendant or any of the principal defendants resides, at the election of the plaintiff, as indicated in Section 2 of Rule 4. It is quite clear then that the controlling factor in determining venue for cases of the above nature is the primary objective for which said cases are filed. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Chico-Nazario, Second Division, Go vs United Coconut Planters Bank, G. R. No. 156187, November 11, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

Only 50¢ oil price increase a week—Palace

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

NOT MORE than 50 centavos per week, please.

Malacañang proposed this in anticipation of the plan by oil companies to further raise fuel prices by an average of P2 per liter this month to reflect the upward adjustment in world crude oil prices.

According to a presentation by the Department of Energy in a recent Cabinet meeting, oil companies should limit their adjustments to 50 centavos per liter every week to ease the impact on motorists and commuters.

By making the price hikes come in small rather than big doses, Malacañang is hoping that the public would have an easier time adjusting to the rising oil prices, which it has repeatedly said was beyond its control.

Oil companies claimed that the 14-percent jump in prices of Dubai crude, the 22-percent increase in unleaded gasoline prices and the 28-percent rise in diesel from end-January to end-February should translate to an average increase of P2.50 per liter in pump prices.

Fuel prices were increased by 50 centavos last week by the oil companies, who had advised Malacañang of their plan to collect the remaining P2 per liter this month.

But Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair Raul Concepcion strongly disputed the oil companies' demand for a P2.50 price hike, although he declined to say what should be the fair price adjustments based on his own computation.

The oil companies' plan to raise prices by another P2 per liter was discussed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and her economic managers in a Cabinet meeting in Davao early this week.

The economic managers brainstormed to come up with several ways to mitigate the impact of the oil price increases on the public.

Aside from limiting the price hike to 50 centavos per liter per week, the Cabinet agreed to push for the P1 per liter discount to public transport groups in 247 gasoline stations nationwide, launch 200 buses powered by compressed natural gas, promote ethanol blend in gasoline, and bat for energy conservation measures.

The Cabinet also wanted to encourage more oil and gas exploration, liquify coal, cut tariffs on hybrid and bio-fuel imports, and raise duties for gas-guzzling vehicles.

3 groups said to be interested in Naia terminal

MALACAÑANG yesterday said that up to three investor groups have offered to take the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 off its hands with a minimum asking price of $300 million.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita refused to name the interested investors who indicated their interest to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima.

But Ermita dispelled speculation that this could be part of under-the-table discussions to pass on to a favored group the controversial terminal that the government expropriated in December after it voided the contract of the consortium that built it, Philippine Air Terminals Co. (Piatco).

"I don't have a handle on those who are interested and it's premature to tell their identities. But there is no backdoor dealing here. When the time comes we will let the public know," Ermita said in a press briefing.

He said the government expected that one of the possible bidders, made up of local and foreign partners, would make an unsolicited offer in the next two weeks.

But the formal bidding would have to wait until after the government opens the facility as scheduled on June 21, Ermita said.

The proceeds from the sale would be used to pay what is owed Piatco which is demanding at least $450 million in compensation.

The government filed expropriation proceedings against Piatco last year, depositing P3 billion as initial payment for whatever amount the court-appointed body would determine was just compensation for Naia 3.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said the government decided to expropriate Naia 3 after exhausting all means to reach an amicable agreement with Piatco and its German-based partner Fraport, both of which have filed separate arbitration cases before international bodies.

Ermita said the government has pegged the minimum offer price for Naia 3 at $300 million, based on the contract price of $323 million.

He said the government had to bring down the offer price to $300 million because Piatco did not complete some of the facilities called for in the original contract like the $18-million underground tunnel.

When asked if Piatco or Fraport would be allowed to join the bidding, Ermita said the government had yet to study the issue.

Ermita said the government remained confident it was on track to complete the finishing works on the terminal in time for the scheduled opening three months from now despite reports that some airlines are reluctant to transfer to the terminal because of questions of safety and security.

The President meanwhile is scheduled to visit Naia 3 for the first time on March 15, said Angel Atutubo, Miaa assistant general manager for security. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., with a report from Nikko Dizon*

SUNBRIGHT HOLIDAY VACATION FARES

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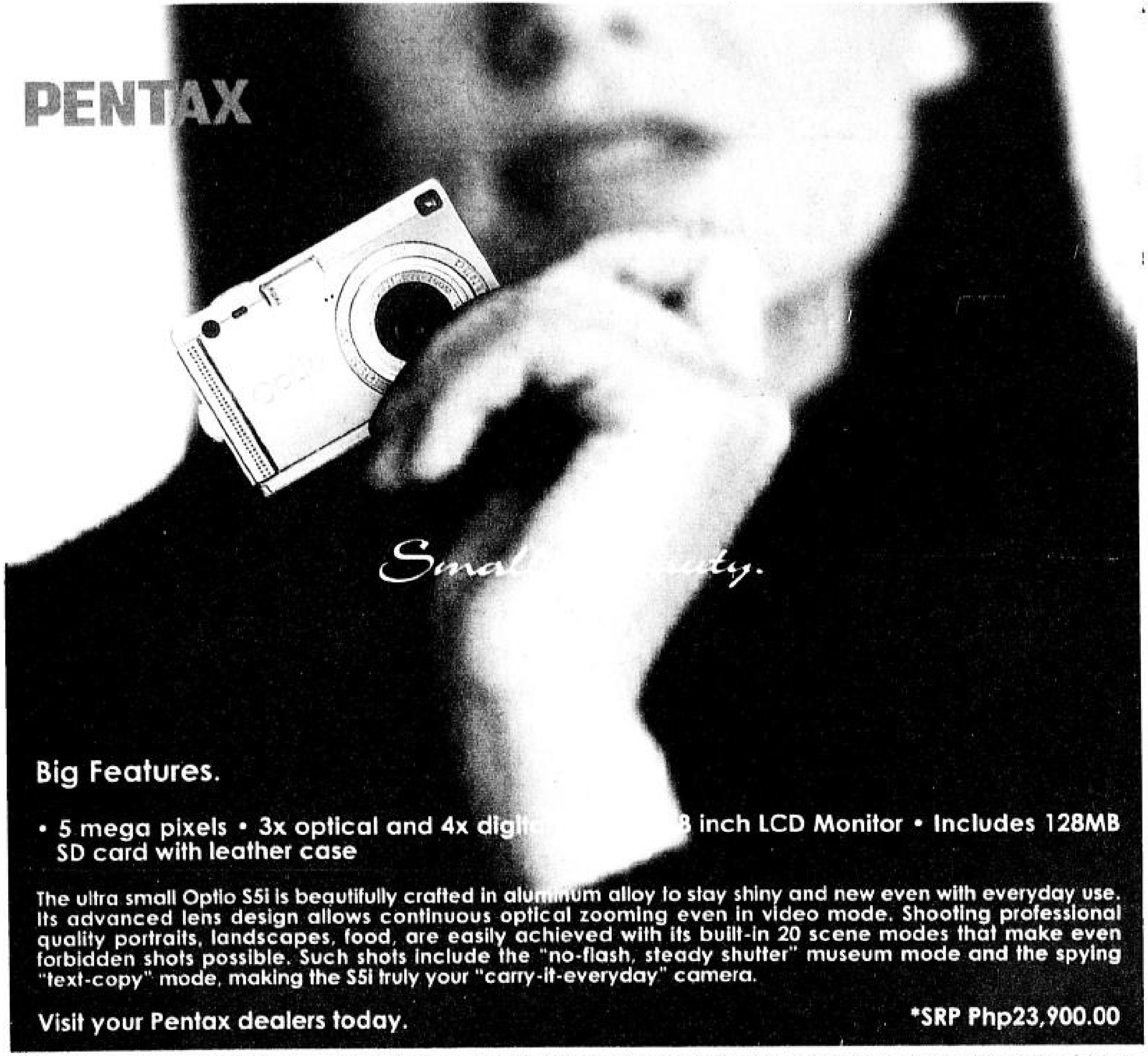

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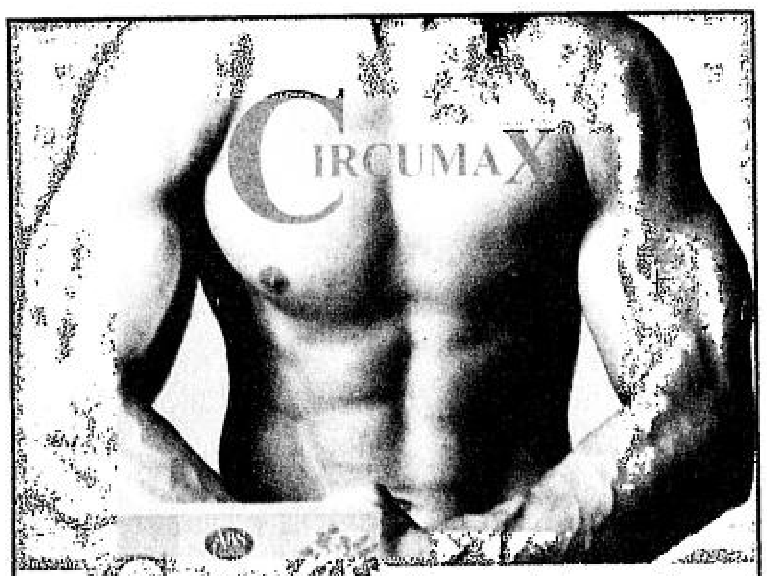

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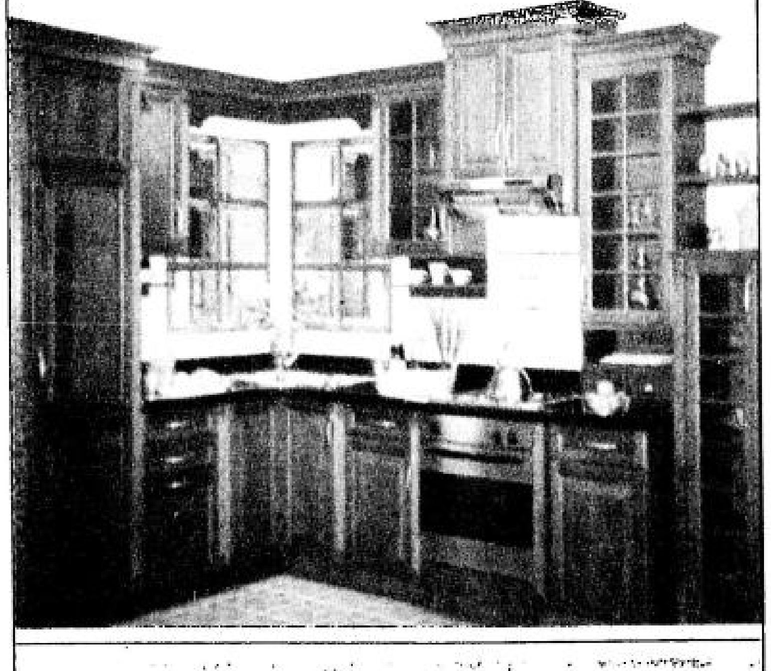

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Italy PM disputes US version of Iraq shooting of hostage

ROME—Demanding answers and disputing Washington's version of events, Italy's premier said that an Italian intelligence agent who was shot to death by US troops in Baghdad had informed the proper authorities that he was heading to the airport with a freed hostage.

Premier Silvio Berlusconi also told lawmakers Wednesday that the car carrying agent Nicola Calipari and a just-liberated hostage was traveling slowly and stopped immediately when a light was flashed at a checkpoint, before US troops fired on the car.

In a carefully worded address—his first major speech since the shooting—Berlusconi said Italy had the duty to demand the truth about Friday's shooting from its US allies.

"I'm sure that in a very short time every aspect of this will be clarified," Berlusconi said.

The idea that Calipari was killed by friendly fire is painful to accept, the premier said. But he reassured lawmakers: "The United States has no intention of evading the truth."

Berlusconi is a staunch supporter of US President George W. Bush and the US-led campaign, and has been struggling to balance his decision to keep 3,000 troops in Iraq against heavy antiwar sentiment in Italy. Several commentators praised his speech for its equilibrium: Il Sole-24 Ore newspaper said Berlusconi showed "a skillful blend of firmness and restraint."

Lawmakers followed the speech with a standing ovation in Calipari's honor.

The 20-minute address did not mention whether ransom was paid to win the release of former hostage Giuliana Sgrena. Some Italian officials have suggested money changed hands, but there has been no official confirmation. Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini denied the suggestions Wednesday. "There has been no payment," he said during a talk show on RAI1 state television.

Giving Italy's version of the shooting, Berlusconi said Calipari had notified an Italian liaison officer, waiting at the Baghdad airport along with an American officer, that he was on his way with Sgrena. *AP*

China spurns US on antisecession law

BEIJING—China on Thursday rejected a US appeal to reconsider an antisecession law aimed at rival Taiwan.

"We oppose these irresponsible remarks on this law," said foreign ministry spokesperson Kong Quan. "We hope the US side can understand China's actions and not do anything to embolden pro-Taiwan independence actions."

The law, introduced Tuesday in China's figurehead legislature, would authorize military action if Taiwan tries to make its de facto independence permanent. A final vote is scheduled for Monday and the law is certain to be approved.

The White House called the measure "unhelpful" and appealed to China to reconsider.

Taiwan split from China in 1949, but the communist Beijing government claims the self-ruled, democratic island as its territory and has threatened to take it by force if necessary.

Kong, speaking at a regular news briefing, said other governments should understand that China has to enact the law to protect its territorial integrity.

The spokesperson said Washington should be interested in maintaining stability in the region, which Beijing claims is threatened by lobbying on Taiwan to make the island's independence permanent.

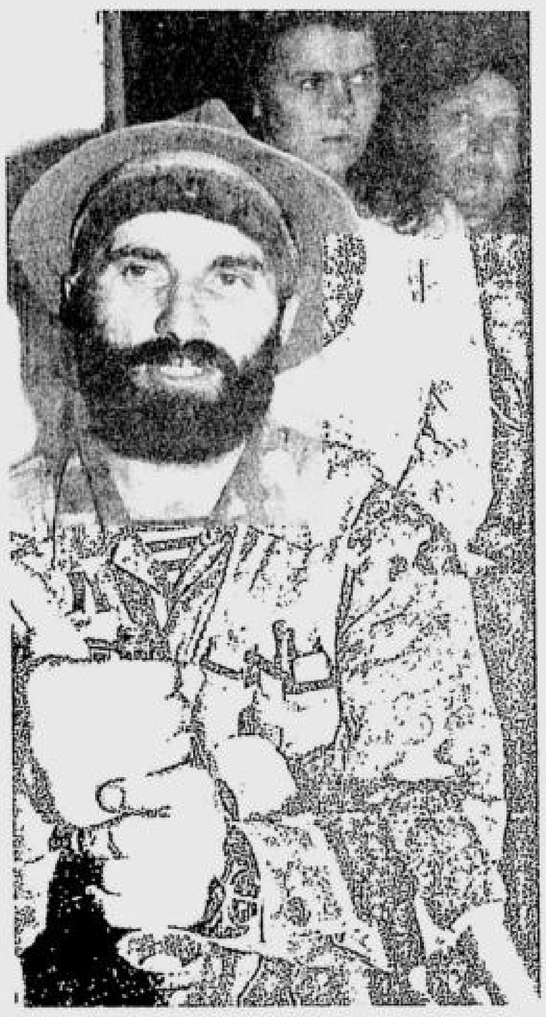
Kong said the topic might come up when US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits Beijing on March 20-21.

Discussions then are expected to focus on efforts to restart six-nation talks with North Korea on its nuclear program, he said. *AP*

Brutal Basayev now face of Chechen separatism after moderate's death

MOSCOW—With the death of Chechnya's moderate rebel leader, the face of separatism in the war-torn republic becomes Shamil Basayev—a bearded, acerbic man who believes children are legitimate targets in his battle against Moscow.

The 40-year-old, with his trademark shaved head and bushy black beard, is Russia's most wanted man who has at times gleefully claimed responsibility for some of the most horrific attacks on Russian soil, including the school hostage siege in Beslan last year that left more than 340 people, half of them children, dead.



PICTURE taken June 17, 1995 shows Chechen rebel leader Shamil Basayev standing among hostages in the hospital of Budennovsk. AFP

"We are being fought against without any rules and with the direct support of the whole world," an unrepentant Basayev said after the massacre in a statement posted on the kavkazcenter.com website that he uses for communication.

"We are not tied by any obligations to anyone and will fight in such a way that we see fit, according to our rules," he said.

In addition to spectacular hostage takings, Basayev's arsenal has included using suicide bombers, including women, at Moscow rock concerts and subway trains, and aboard Russian domestic flights.

"We are using the methods and means that you have forced upon us and will not stop before anything in order to end the genocide of the Chechen people," Basayev said in another statement.

Following Tuesday's death of Aslan Maskhadov, a moderate rebel leader, the hardline Basayev becomes the Chechen separatist with the most authority among an estimated 1,000 to 3,000 rebels in the republic.

Basayev quickly vowed the fight against Russia would go on.

"Mujahedin come and go. Those who fought for Maskhadov can rest. For those who fight for Allah, the jihad (holy war) continues," Basayev said in a statement on the kavkazcenter.com.

Moscow has repeatedly vowed that finding Basayev was its top priority, but the tens of thousands of its troops stationed in a republic slightly larger than Lebanon had not been able to do so in years, raising speculation in conspiracy-prone Russia of a pact between the warlord and Kremlin hawks interested in prolonging the war.

Such theories point as justification to Basayev's beginnings as a fighter—he fought for pro-Moscow separatists in Georgia's region of Abkhazia in the early 1990s.

Basayev's tactics, discipline and apparent lack of fear on the battlefield first exhibited in Abkhazia have made him one of the most feared men in Russia. He has been reported killed several times, only to pop up again alive and well later.

Born in January 1965 in Vedeno, a mountaintop village in southeast Chechnya, Basayev displayed few early signs of military prowess. Little is known of his army record, except that he served as a fireman. *AFP*

CBS' Dan Rather signs off

NEW YORK—To the end of his career as CBS News anchor, Dan Rather stared down his critics.

Rather ended his final broadcast at the "CBS Evening News" on Wednesday with the message he was once ridiculed for offering: "courage."

The 73-year-old Texan has covered a breathtaking array of stories in more than 40 years at CBS, from the Kennedy assassination to the tsunami, and was the network's most visible face for the past 24 years. He replaced Walter Cronkite on the evening news on March 9, 1981.

Bob Schieffer is Rather's temporary replacement starting Thursday. CBS expects to name a permanent anchor team to succeed Rather in the coming months.

He was the second of the three men who dominated network news for more than two decades to step down in four months. NBC's Tom Brokaw exited in November, leaving ABC's Peter Jennings remaining at "World News Tonight."

His voice slightly hoarse, Rather was all business for the first 20 minutes of Wednesday's broadcast. He didn't mention the special day, and neither did correspondents John Roberts or Anthony Mason when they threw stories back to him.

Then Rather looked back on what he called the most important story of his career—the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He opened the news that evening by saying, "you will remember this day as long as you live."

He thanked viewers at the end of Wednesday's newscast, then mentioned Sept. 11 survivors, tsunami survivors, the American military, the oppressed, the sick and fellow journalists in dangerous places.

"And, to each of you," he said. "Courage." He seemed to savor each word of his signoff: "For the 'CBS Evening News,' Dan Rather reporting. Good night."

For a week in September 1986, Rather ended the news with the word "courage." He gave it up after being mocked for it, and the incident joined the list of oddities that bedeviled the tightly-wound newsman throughout his career. *AP*

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'Forgotten' crises don't get world's attention

By Ruth Gidley

LONDON—All emergencies are not created equal.

A tsunami of biblical proportions roars out of the Indian Ocean, kills up to 300,000 and prompts the public to empty their pockets like never before as media coverage goes into overdrive.

In contrast, war in Democratic Republic of Congo kills nearly 4 million and leaves thousands traumatized by rape and machete massacres, yet hardly registers in the global media.

Why do some humanitarian crises make the front pages while others wait in vain for their turn in the spotlight?

"(A tsunami is) simpler, visual and more dramatic, in ways that both drought and conflict aren't," said Paul Harvey of the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG), a British think tank.

A survey launched on Thursday by Reuters AlertNet, a humanitarian news service run by Reuters Foundation, highlighted 10 crises aid experts said had been neglected by global media.

The experts chose Congo, northern Uganda, western and southern Sudan, West Africa, Colombia, Chechnya, Nepal and Haiti as the most neglected humanitarian hotspots.

They also drew attention to the global AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

Those polled cited a raft of reasons why some emergencies are "forgotten," not least the challenge of distilling complex crises such as Congo's down to simple soundbites or finding a thread of hope to help audiences empathize.

"The story is always the same," said Lindsey Hilsum, international editor of Britain's Channel 4 TV news. "It induces despair. It's expensive and dangerous, and one feels that there are no solutions and no end to it all."

Analysts said long-running humanitarian crises were often difficult to package as fresh-sounding stories, while logistical problems and tight budgets could also put off news editors.

In countries such as Zimbabwe and Sudan, governments routinely refuse to give journalists visas, while reporting in Congo can mean hitching a ride on an aid plane, trekking through the jungle or guessing when the next ferry will arrive.

And all for a story unlikely to make the front page. *Reuters*

Top 10 'forgotten emergencies' deserving more focus

LONDON—Reuters AlertNet, a humanitarian news website run by Reuters Foundation, asked more than 100 relief professionals, media personalities, academics and activists which "forgotten" crises they would urge the media to focus on in 2005.

Following are key facts on each of the 10 emergencies.

Killing in Congo. Democratic Republic of Congo is plagued by violence after a devastating 1998-2003 war which killed nearly 4 million people.

- Violence has exploded in the east since late last year.
- Some 100,000 people have fled their homes in the latest bloodletting in the Ituri region, where tens of thousands of women and children have been raped in recent years.
- Some 3.3 million people now out of reach of aid groups.

Nightmare in Uganda. Northern Uganda has suffered 18 years of war between the Ugandan military and the brutal Lord's Resistance Army rebels.

- 20,000 children have been abducted by LRA and forced to serve as soldiers and sex slaves.
- Up to 100,000 people killed since conflict began, and 1.6 million have been driven from their homes into squalid camps.

Sudan's civil wars. Sudan has suffered Africa's longest-running civil war in the south and a two-year-old conflict in Darfur in the west.

- Darfur rebels say Arab militias armed by the government have conducted a campaign of killing and rape against non-Arabs.
- Tens of thousands killed and up to 2 million displaced, four million may soon need life-saving aid.
- In south, a fragile peace deal holding after a 21-year civil war which killed 2 million and uprooted 4 million.

AIDS epidemic. Some 40 million people are living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, two thirds in sub-Saharan Africa.

- 30 percent of adults in southern Africa infected and 14 million children orphaned by AIDS.
- Explosive growth rates in China and India.

West Africa in turmoil. Liberia, Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone struggling for peace after conflicts forced children into war.

- Ivory Coast threatening to implode as pro-government forces break a 2003 ceasefire with rebels.
- Almost 400,000 Liberian refugees still to return home two years after the war.
- Half of Sierra Leone's population of 5 million displaced and 20,000 killed by war that ended in 2002.

Colombians uprooted. Almost 3 million displaced after four decades of conflict.

- Civilians caught up in fighting between armed militias and government troops fueled by drug wars and breakdown of law.
- 35,000 people killed since start of the 1990s.

Chechen conflict. Tens of thousands killed and hundreds of thousands displaced in a decade of conflict in Russia's breakaway republic.

- War displaced 600,000 Chechens, 210,000 yet to return.
- Doctors say 80 percent of children suffer trauma.

Strife in Haiti. Political turmoil and lawlessness is threatening food supplies and health services for hundreds of thousands.

- 55 percent of Haitians living on less than $1 a day.
- 42 percent of children under five malnourished.

Crisis in Nepal. About 11,000 people killed in nine years of conflict between Maoist rebels and constitutional monarchy.

- 100,000-200,000 people uprooted and cut off from aid.
- Half of children aged under five underweight.

Infectious diseases. Malaria and tuberculosis kill millions each year.

- Malaria kills an African child every 30 seconds
- TB kills about 2 million a year worldwide, including people also infected with HIV. *Reuters*

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Starving the corrupt

EDITORIAL

SAN JUAN Mayor JV Ejercito is furious that the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy (PERC) rated the Philippines second only to Indonesia for corruption in the region. His competitive instincts must have pushed him to proclaim that our country should really be No. 1. Or perhaps he remembers how very hard his father, then President Joseph Estrada, tried to put us at the top of the dung heap.

The survey itself concludes, rather more soberly, that "corruption is clearly less today" than during the time of Ferdinand Marcos, although determining if the Arroyo administration "is any cleaner or dirtier" is a bit harder to determine. The reason for this lies in the very nature of the survey, which was based on the perceptions of foreign businessmen and not on anything more quantifiable than their opinions. The World Bank and US-based investment bank Morgan Stanley are explicit about the costs of corruption. The World Bank estimates that about $48 billion was lost to corruption over a 20-year period, while Morgan Stanley placed the loss at $204 billion between 1965 and 2001.

Interestingly, the survey indicates that the Philippines stands virtually shoulder-to-shoulder with some other Asian countries. The Philippines got a score of 8.8 (on a scale that has 0 as the least corrupt and 10 absolutely corrupt); India got 8.63, Vietnam 8.65, while Indonesia got 9.10. These fractional differences indicate virtually indistinguishable, and quite high, levels of corruption afflicting all these countries. To make it even clearer, the best performing country, Singapore, with a score of .065, was three orders of magnitude better than Japan (3.46) and Hong Kong (3.50). But Malaysia (6.8), Thailand (7.2) and China (7.68) are within spitting distance of the Philippines. Which only goes to show that the entire region is profoundly, and seriously, afflicted with corruption in Western eyes.

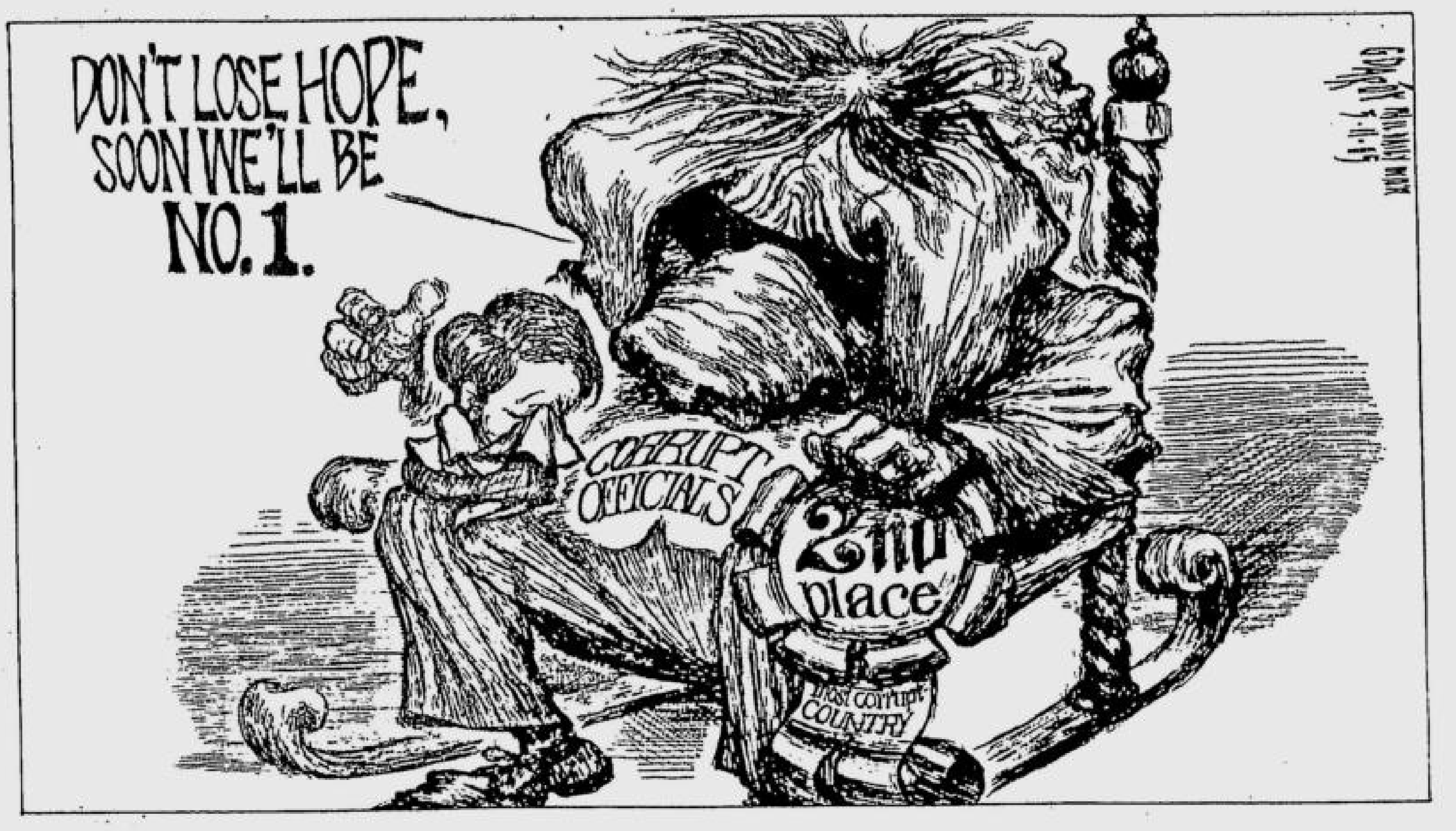
But we don't need surveys to tell us corruption is bad. Everyone knows this, and have known it since time immemorial. The equally age-old question in the light of this perennial observation is, why aren't inroads being made in the fight against corruption? Tony Kwok, former deputy commissioner of the Hong Kong Commission Against Corruption, has come forward with the clearest reason. Speaking during a recent anti-corruption workshop, Kwok said, "I am confident that given the effective enforcement and successful prosecution by the [Office of the Ombudsman] and the partnership approach in this corruption prevention project, it is possible that this three-year project will see a marked improvement in the eradication of corruption in this country."

The key word in his statement is not a call for political will—which is, indeed required, but not enough—but the concept of partnership.

Business leaders have seized on the concept of partnership by creating watchdog groups, a move that seems to ignore a basic bulwark of corruption, which is big business itself. The most poisonous fruits of corruption are ripened by the big money in the hands of big business, eager to cut corners to reduce taxes and fees levied by government. The profit motive taken to extremes entrenches corruption because of the vast sums that change hands, convincing civil servants that they have willing and eager co-conspirators to defraud the country. All the petty mulcting in the world—the small extortions endured by the population at the hands of civil servants—is nothing compared to the big bounties made available by big business eager—or forced—to play ball with corrupt officials.

Observers, puzzled by the often anti-business mentality of much of the working population and the press, fail to see the genuine basis for this contemptuous attitude toward big business, even when it preaches honesty as part of its civic functions. The reason is, Filipinos get to see corruption up close and personal practiced by their bosses: the CFOs who push for greater profits and less taxes, the CEOs and COOs who happily mix with corrupt politicians to get ahead of the competition or avoid the full scrutiny of the law, and so on.

What the country needs is fewer watchdog groups and a greater determination on the part of businessmen to sacrifice profits to obtain honesty in government. This is the best, long-term business attitude of all: to starve the corrupt even if it entails tightening the belt for the present. The problem is, the profit motive, again, is so inexorable that short-term profits almost always outweigh potential future anti-corruption gains.



The never-ending search for happiness

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

THE PHILIPPINES is becoming famous all over the world—but for all the wrong reasons. Its latest achievement is being the second most corrupt nation in Asia, according to a survey of foreign businessmen conducted by a Hong Kong consultancy group, Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. (PERC).

There will surely be protests from the administration, but Filipinos recognize not only that the survey is correct but that the Philippines should perhaps be No. 1 on the list.

Filipinos love to be record holders, whether it is for the biggest shoe or the longest *longganisa*, but the Philippines already holds many records. It has the highest birth rate; the slowest judicial system; the longest red tape; it is among the poorest countries in the world; it has the widest gap between the rich and the poor; it has the most number of citizens who have to work in other countries to support their families at home; it has the second highest electricity rates in Asia; it is the kidnap and carnap capital of the world; it has one of the highest crime rates and, not surprisingly, the most inefficient police force; it has the most congested streets and the most unruly drivers; it has the most number of squatters and the greediest legislators who steal the biggest tax money in the form of pork barrel; it probably has the biggest number of citizens who want to leave their country and live elsewhere. Being the second most corrupt nation in Asia is only the latest crown.

In spite of all these, the Philippines ranks as the 6th happiest nation in the world, a fact that we should be happy about. Many people found the result of this particular survey surprising. How can the poorest people in the world be among the happiest? Perhaps, they said, they surveyed public officials, which explains why they are happy.

But no, I think the survey is accurate: Despite the grinding poverty, or because of it, there are more Filipinos who are happy than those who are unhappy. Because it doesn't take much to make the poor happy. Give them a meal and that will make them very happy. If a scavenger finds several kilos of scrap metal or a big bag of leftover food in the garbage, that will make him very happy. Give a jobless man a job and he will jump for joy.

On the other hand, rich people are very hard to please. A rich businessman who already has millions of pesos in the bank will be unhappy, even though he is still making several millions in profit, if what he is gaining today is less than what he was netting yesterday. A multi-billionaire, among the richest in the world, will be unhappy if a famous magazine ranks him lower than his rival on its list of the world's richest. A rich society matron will be very unhappy if her rival gets a bigger picture in the newspapers.

I once worked for a very rich publisher. He was very powerful and influential; government officials paid obeisance to him; he had a number of profitable businesses; when he held his birthday parties, champagne literally flowed from a fountain.

Yet every evening I saw this rich and powerful man pacing his office, a worried look on his face, and his fingers nervously plucking at the stubble on his chin. What could such a rich man be worried about? Perhaps he was worried he could not pay his debts. Or that one of his businesses would fail. Perhaps a rival was doing better than him. Or perhaps he was worried that one of his children would be kidnapped.

No such worries bother the poor. Nobody will bother to kidnap any of their kids. Their only worry is where to get the next meal. When they get it, they are very happy.

As for the rich, you serve them the best food cooked by the best chef but they can't eat; they have no appetite. Give the poor a little rice and two pieces of *tuyo*—food the rich won't even look at—and you make them happy. Could it be that the Philippines is a happy nation because there are so many poor people in it?

What I'm driving at is that happiness is relative. Different things make different people happy. What makes one person happy will not necessarily make the next one also happy. What a person lacks most will make him happy if he gets it.

Most people think that wealth will make them happy. But when they already have it, they are still not happy. Others think fame will make them happy, but we see so many famous people shunning the limelight, going through all sorts of disguises so they won't be recognized by the public that adores them. Some think it is high office, but that's not it either.

Sickly people will be happiest when they get their health back; and a couple who quarrel will be happiest when they kiss and make up. Sometimes, a simple thing like a baby's smile will make a mother or father very happy. Or a child who has been neglected by his or her father will be gladdened by just one kind word from him. Love and family are big sources of happiness but not completely. And as Peanuts has said so often, "Happiness is a warm puppy."

Yes, the search for happiness is a never-ending one. You chase a goal you think would make you happy but when you finally get to it, you are not completely happy. So you chase the next goal and when you find it, it's the same thing—something is still lacking. What is it? True happiness is elusive.

Ask a Born Again Christian and he has the answer.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Monday's topic at the Kapihan sa Manila is the rising oil prices and the Oil Deregulation Law. Guests are Energy Secretary Vince Perez, Bataan Gov. Enrique Garcia who has the answer to the problem, Raul Concepcion of Oil Price Watch and a representative each from the oil companies, the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, and a jeepney drivers' association.

Conscientious objectors and missed conceptions

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

THERE are many misconceptions about the pending bill on contraception. For the past week, House Bill 3773 or the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act has been attacked—and defended—by religious groups.

The Philippine Constitution guarantees "the right of spouses to found a family in accordance with their religious convictions and the demands of responsible parenthood." The bill is the legislative implementation of that right. "Responsible parenthood" is illusory without informed choice, unless couples know the full range of options, the "natural" methods (approved of by the clergy) as well as "modern" methods (frowned upon by the clergy), because after all, the choice should be made by the couple and not by their parish priest.

Significantly, the bill expressly aims to prevent abortions, recognizing that unplanned and unwanted pregnancies are the main cause of abortions, and that global data have shown that abortion rates are lowest in countries where family planning information is most widely accessible. It places the Philippine Catholic Church hierarchy in a bind. Church doctrine bans abortions (as does the Revised Penal Code), and yet the clergy now opposes a concrete measure that will demonstrably prevent that painful act of desperation.

In the heat of the ensuing debate, one clause in particular has drawn fire. The bill punishes "health care service providers"—doctors, nurses and health officials—who withhold information about family planning methods (say, about those "sinful" methods of birth control) or who refuse to perform "voluntary sterilization and ligation" on patients of legal age.

The "free exercise" clause of the Constitution provides that no one may be compelled to perform any act abhorrent to his religion; he in effect cannot be coerced to betray his chosen faith. The Supreme Court has, for instance, defended the schoolchildren belonging to the Jehovah's Witnesses who were being compelled to take part in flag ceremonies proscribed by their church, thus overturning an old doctrine that for decades coerced the kids to either let down their church or enroll in their own schools. The Court ensured that the spiritual life is off-limits to the state and reserved it to that quiet conversation between each believer and his god.

The bill wisely includes a "conscientious objector" clause: a health professional may validly refuse to perform what for him are irreligious acts, except in medical emergencies where, say, the patient's life is in jeopardy. Historically, conscientious objectors (COs) have belonged to pacifist religions whose members refused to fight in wars; perhaps their religion required them to be neutral in worldly conflicts, or rejected all earthly powers who purport to impose upon them its moral judgments. They were thus exempted from active military service.

COs became controversial during the Vietnam War, when the United States still had a compulsory draft enlisting its young men into that unpopular war (the United States has now eliminated the draft and relies on a volunteer army). The most famous conscientious objection during that period is found in the case "In re: Cassius Clay a.k.a. Muhammad Ali," where the dethroned world heavyweight champion went all the way to the US Supreme Court and won.

The United States has bent over backwards to respect religious freedom. While the Selective Service Act of 1948 required that CO status be based on religious objections; in 1971 the US Supreme Court required only a deeply held belief akin to religion. The Philippine bill reflects that liberal position and recognizes COs based broadly on "ethical and religious grounds." Indeed, the bill does not require the health officer to perform any substitute service, merely to "immediately refer" the patient to another, easily accessible health professional.

Health officers may claim the CO exception if they "refuse to extend quality health care services and information." This protects doctors and nurses who claim CO status should they refuse to perform certain medical procedures contrary to their faith. I cannot imagine though how this same privilege can be invoked by health officers who refuse to even tell couples all the medically available options. It is a deliberate breach of professional duty to withhold or distort medical information about family planning, and to pick and choose which method to discuss on the basis not of science but of religion. When it comes to non-medical biases, our good doctors and nurses are essentially on the same footing as my favorite *manghihilot* (hey, it works) and her voodoo diagnoses.

It pains me to see children in slum areas living off the subsistence wages of marginally employed parents. These parents could have given them a better life had they known better, if only there were just two instead of eight mouths to feed. That is the goal of the Responsible Parenthood bill.

Of course, I have heard the argument that the children could have lived better lives, too, if our government had been better managed, our leaders a little less greedy, our businessmen guided by a bit more conscience. That argument may have worked 30 years ago, but to keep peddling that hope today is no different from telling the poor to wait idly because their true rewards are in the afterlife. This argument is nothing but the latest version of the millenarian promise, which can induce fatalism and passivity among our poor who must instead be empowered to take charge of their lives.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph

Be kind to 'sinners'

COMMENTARY

Asuncion David Maramba

WE are in the heart of Lent—open season for homilists to again remind us how "sinful" we are. "We are sinners." "*Tayo'y makasalanan.*" We are "not worthy." And the publican who beat his breast and kept his head bowed at the back of the temple is often trotted out as the ideal sinner, an interpretation quite short of the full significance of that well-loved parable of the Publican and the Pharisee. How "sinful" we are. *Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.*

How has it come to this—this implanting of the utter sinfulness of man? It can keep us and our children prostrate for life at the rate we are continually reminded of it in homilies, prayers, novenas. Is it any wonder that ours is an abject religion, with different shades and degrees of servility trailing behind? The mortal and venial sin syndrome still makes of us such scrupulous souls weighing the gravity of our sins on human scales. How many pre-Vatican II boys and girls confessed "mortal sins" because "the host touched my teeth" or "I swallowed water after midnight"?

If such a disposition has sunk into our national psyche, that is bad for nation-building. For how can a people who think so poorly of themselves ever rise from the depths in which they dwell?

I can see antennae rising. So, before I go on, let's make some clarifications. I am not railing against the "sense of sin." I am no ally of those who would obliterate this "sense." I agree with those who say that the emerging, dominant culture created by media and politics is smiling sin out of existence, cavalier about good and evil, the very bedrock of morality. There is sin and there are sinners. But to hear it like a refrain all year round is something else. That said, let me go on.

Yes, there is sin and there are sinners. Grafters and corruptors, traitors and plotters, exploiters and destroyers of nature, thieves and cheats in high places, in the corridors of power of any and all established institutions, murderers of all kinds—single and mass, instigators and architects of war, terror and persecution, purveyors of sex and lust, the violent who maim and kill the body, liars who maim and crush hearts, minds and souls. What they commit are monstrous sins and most probably, such perpetrators are sinners.

How about the rest of us who try our best, day-in and day-out, to live good and upright lives? Yes, we are flawed; we are wounded; we are inconstant and inconsistent; we are recidivists. Don't we know how imperfect we are!

We can't pray without getting distracted. We find it hard to forgive those who have hurt us. We so easily dislike some people on first impression. We can't pursue kindness for one full day. We can't pursue justice without making an exception here and there. We are so easily given to prejudice and intolerance. We always think ourselves right and the other, wrong. We keep failing in the practice of any one virtue. We pig out and we humbly brag. We gossip and we intrigue. It's the hardest thing to say "I'm sorry." We endlessly criticize and complain but do nothing. We keep losing our patience and our temper. What "sins" we confess and re-confess! Chronically imperfect—yes, but sinners—don't rub it in. A wonderful recollection speaker, once spoke of a "spirituality of imperfection."

History is a love of mine and lately, theology (Study Club, anyone?). I am most curious as to how mind-sets, dispositions, orientations and attitudes all surfacing in behavior evolved (ballooned?) down the checkered road of Church history. "Packaging" is the blunt word, and "brainwashing" its cruel twin. Those who package any religion have a lot to answer for. Who did the packaging and why, such that many religious-spiritual attitudes and perceptions have become Gospel-truth?

Ah, the Gospel. For paramount to the already intriguing history and theology behind such evolutions is Christ in the Gospel. This really is the crux of the matter—a return to the "mind of Christ," Fount and Model of what to think and how to feel, and live.

What has He really wanted, really meant, really envisioned? Did He not want religion to be liberating, not constricting (like the Pharisees who did so by rules and rituals)? Did He not want to uplift rather than to bring down (like the Pharisees again, who were experts at belittling ordinary mortals)? Did He not intend to banish fear? He said, "Deliver us from evil"—not just "from mortal and venial sin." Was He not simplicity incarnate? Is He not now asking for purification, a "change of consciousness," part of which is the review of layers of deposits that may have soiled the once-pure ideas of sinfulness and sanctity, obedience, dogma, worship, worth and the rest of the "religious" ideas and attitudes we live by?

What must we cleanse and purge? What must we keep?

Asuncion David Maramba is a retired professor, book editor and occasional journalist. Comments to marda@info.com.ph; fax 8210659

Faces of women in the tsunami

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

NEW YORK—The major initiative of the Philippine delegation to the 49th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is reviewing governments' compliance with the Beijing Platform for Action, is a proposed resolution calling for "integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster."

In her statement read at the high-level plenary Monday, delegation co-chair Mely Nicolas, who is also secretary general and lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), expounded on the rationale for such a resolution.

"The Philippines has had its share of natural disasters and thus can empathize with our neighbors regarding the horror caused by the devastating tsunami," said Nicolas. "While we offer our prayers and support to the victims, we strongly urge that all relief, recovery and long-term reconstruction efforts be imbued with a gender perspective that protects women and children, who make up the majority of the victims, from further violence and abuse, that they be allowed to participate actively in the decisions and actions that determine their future."

As of this writing, many country delegations had already expressed willingness to either co-sponsor or support the Philippine initiative, one of them being Thailand, which as everyone knows was one of the countries heavily affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami.

* * *

PUTTING a "human face" to the tsunami disaster was a panel discussion of women involved in post-tsunami relief and rehabilitation efforts, sponsored by the UN Fund for Population, with resource persons from Sri Lanka, India, Thailand and Aceh in Indonesia.

Debra Yatin, who is Unifem gender advisor for relief and recovery efforts in Aceh, pointed out that the disaster has had "different impacts on men and women." Culture and socialization played a big part in making women and girls particularly vulnerable, she said. In a conservative Islamic society, said Yatin, girls are "not encouraged to engage in physical activity." Thus, many of those killed by the huge waves were women and girls who didn't know how to swim or even how to climb trees. But even if they were fortunate enough to survive the water, so many women, said Yatin, were seen "running back to the water to look for babies, the aged and the disabled members of the family."

In the wake of the disaster, when time came to count the number of fatalities, the gender dimension of the crisis came out in stark relief. Yatin cites the count in one district which had 5,500 inhabitants before the tsunami struck, and only 750 survivors afterwards. But of these, only 40 were women and girls.

Other factors contributed to this lopsided death toll. "The tsunami struck on a Sunday," said Yatin, "so most of the women and children were left at home while the men were out in the coffee shops. Thus, when the waves struck, the men were able to help each other while the women and children were isolated at home, without recourse to rescue."

* * *

ABOUT the most heart-rending aspect of the tragedy in Aceh, said Yatin, were the judgments rendered on those who perished.

The women victims, pointed out Yatin, were dressed mostly in dresses and saris of flimsy material that could easily be torn off their bodies. Thus, in the aftermath of the tsunami, "many of the bodies of women that were found on the ground up to weeks afterward were naked."

Muslim clerics later preached that the tsunami was an "act of God," with some pointing out that it was a punishment on women who were wearing "loose clothing." These conservative clerics then began to fulminate on their view of "woman as the original sinner who brings tragedy down upon society."

The injustice applied even long after the disaster. Women, said Yatin, "were out of the radar screen of relief efforts."

To reach women and address their specific needs, relief efforts "need to focus on the nature of women" in a particular setting. For instance, while spiritual solace would go a long way towards easing the trauma of the disaster, many women feel they cannot properly pray unless they are in "prayer clothes," special white robes that need to be primarily clean. "But many of the survivors have only one set of clothes, and they cannot even get them to be clean enough for praying," said Yatin.

* * *

A SPEAKER from Thailand, representing the community of Burmese migrants, many of whom died in the tsunami, pointed out the need to count as well minority populations who have remained invisible to authorities and to the international community.

Of the more than 1.8 million migrants from Burma in Thailand, more than 25,000 of them were living and working in the tsunami-affected areas, she said. But only about 18 percent of them are registered, with the majority keeping a low profile in an attempt to evade being traced by authorities.

"There has been no news about the migrants in the tsunami," the speaker said. "There is no system (in place) to identify and help the migrant victims," she added. In most cases, the fear is justified, for migrants who surface to avail themselves of relief and rehabilitation are often arrested on the spot.

"It's as if there's another disaster in the aftermath of the tsunami," noted the migrant representative.

As these accounts prove, relief and rehabilitation efforts are not "one size fits all," for not only do men and women and children have different and unique needs, their needs may also vary according to circumstance and culture. A measure such as the Philippine initiative would certainly go a long way toward giving women the help they really need as they start to rebuild their lives after the tsunami.

Again, the lesser evil

COMMENTARY

Dr. Minguita Padilla

THE SENATORS did the right thing when they recently did the unthinkable, which was to pass the House version of the 2005 budget *in toto*, doing away completely with the traditional bicameral conference committee. From all indications, it was something they had to do so that the country would no longer be held hostage by the delaying tactics of the House of Representatives or the threat of another re-enacted budget complete with its negative repercussions. The hostage-taking by the House, according to the Senate, was a ploy of many congressmen aimed at restoring their respective pork barrel allocations to P70 million each instead of the P40 million specified in the budget submitted by Malacañang and passed by the House.

Immediately after the unprecedented act, all hell broke loose. Accusations and counter-accusations flew. Not a few of our congressmen, many of their faces livid with rage, appeared on national television, accusing the Senate of grandstanding in an attempt to remove the stigma brought about by a revelation made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson at a Makati Business Club forum that some of our good senators were themselves eyeing to realign some of the P1.3 billion they slashed from the executive branch to their respective pork barrels.

Our "honorable" congressmen threw these angry accusations, oblivious of the fact that they were being totally illogical and also totally transparent. After all, why should the House be offended that the Senate passed their version of the budget? The entire nation was subjected to a spectacle that left many of us confused as to whether we wanted to weep, laugh, throw up, or all of the above.

But regardless of whether the Senate did the right thing for the right reasons, or the right thing for the wrong reasons, one thing is clear: We, the people whom our legislators have been sworn to serve, had to again settle for the lesser evil instead of the greater good. All because of pork.

> For as long as self-interest rules our political life, we will repeatedly be left with nothing better than the lesser evil instead of the greater good

True, because of the Senate coup, about P8.8 billion would be saved from slashed pork barrel funds from both Houses of Congress. Add to this the P600 million in savings from Senators Drilon, Lacson and Lim, who totally gave up their respective pork barrels, and this brings our total savings to over P9 billion. And for this we are grateful.

However, what many are not talking about is that the Senate version of the budget, had it been considered, would have resulted in more savings for the country as well as realigned some funds into worthy causes and marginalized groups which have been very much neglected through the years. It would have slashed "intelligence funds" from several commissions under the executive branch and realigned a fraction of these toward more worthy causes such as feeding programs for children or even the retirement fund of hundreds of aging and neglected firemen, proposals made by Drilon and Lacson, respectively.

Unfortunately, because our senators had to act defensively in the face of a "pork war," we were deprived of all these. Again, we had to settle for the lesser evil, the greater one being the restoration of the graft-ridden pork barrel to its original, obscene "glory."

And obscene does not begin to describe this entire fiasco in the light of the sacrifices our people are being asked to make, sacrifices that, as I said in a previous commentary (PDI, 7/29/04), though necessary, will be almost impossible to demand without a strong signal that our elected leaders are indeed ready to share in our collective burden.

This latest, hoary pork-barrel episode is but a glimpse of the deeply embedded tentacles of corruption that continue to lay siege to our nation's soul. It also sadly shows that but for a handful of our legislators, most are still blind to the social volcano now seething all around us.

The mushrooming of numerous anti-corruption watchdogs is but one sign of the malaise plaguing our country. It is a good sign though, one that shows that we have not yet given up hope for peaceful transformation. But while we citizens should do our part, the better part of change must emanate from above. For as long as self-interest rules our political life, we will repeatedly be left with nothing better than the lesser evil instead of the greater good, a bleak prospect if ever there was one.

And unless this is our vision for our nation, we have no choice but to start working on this transformation now.

Dr. Minguita Padilla, founding president of the Eye Bank, is also president of Sinag, a People's Crusade for Good Governance.

Suffragettes and commanders

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

LAST Wednesday, I began writing about our heroines who so often are made invisible in our textbooks, mass media and cinema. I referred to the 20 young women of Malolos and the women who fought in the revolution against Spain and, later, resisted the American occupation.

Today's column takes us into the 20th century and the rise of feminism in the Philippines. After all, we're supposed to be marking the Filipino Feminist Centennial this year, marked by the establishment of the Asociacion Feminista de Filipinas on June 30, 1905. One could argue, of course, that even the Katipuneras were feminists but the establishment of the Asociacion Feminista meant a specific focus on women's rights for itself, rather than in relation to a broader political struggle.

After the Asociacion Feminista was established, there were other women's organizations that followed, from the National Federation of Women's Clubs to the Girl Scouts of the Philippines. Many were patterned after American groups, mainly involved in civic work but with women's rights on their agenda.

More than the right to vote

Even during the Spanish occupation, many women had already begun working outside their homes, as is well described in Maria Luisa Camagay's "Working Class Women in the 19th Century," but when the Americans annexed the Philippines at the turn of the 20th century, women's participation in public life was still severely limited. We tend to think of these early feminists mainly as suffragettes and forget they also had to fight for the right to own property, to run for public office, maternal leave. The fight for women's rights was an uphill one, involving many years of lobbying; the right to vote didn't come until 1937.

Among the names we hear most often from among the early feminists were Concepcion Felix, Pura Villanueva Kalaw, Librada Avelino, Rosa Sevilla Alvero, Natividad Almeda, Encarnacion Alzona, Maria Paz Mendoza Guazon, Josefa Llanes Escoda, Pilar Hidalgo Lim, Josefa Jara Martinez, Sofia Reyes de Veyra, Trinidad Legarda, Paz Policarpio Mendez, Francisca Tirona Benitez, Maria Manzano, Tarhata Kiram, Geronima Pecson and Minerva Guysako Laudico.

Many of these women were from the elite but there were also notable exceptions such as Concepcion Felix, born to working-class parents in Tondo, Manila. I suspect, too, there were many working-class women involved in broader political struggles. A radical Left had emerged during the American occupation, with very active Communist and Socialist parties that had large followings among peasants and workers. Unfortunately, much too little has been written about the Left during the American colonial period, and certainly much less about the women in the labor and peasant movements.

Commanders

The Left was to play a key role in resisting the Japanese during World War II. The Hukbalahap was organized by the Communist Party and its soldiers recruited mainly from peasants. (Hukbalahap originally meant Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon or the People's Anti-Japanese Army; after the war, it became the Hukbong Mapagpalaya ng Bayan or the People's Liberation Army, waging guerrilla war against the government.)

One of the legendary Hukbalahap leaders was Felipa Culala, better known as Commander Dayang Dayang. She led the first ambush on Japanese troops and eventually formed her own irregular Hukbalahap unit. Sadly, she was executed by her fellow guerrillas in 1943 following accusations of financial opportunism.

Maria Vina Lanzona has written about the involvement of other women in the Hukbalahap. She notes that there were less than 10 women military commanders, the most famous one being Remedios Gomez, or Ka Liwayway, who stayed with the Huks after the war, was arrested and imprisoned for several years before being acquitted.

Besides the women in Hukbalahap, there were many other women who participated in the underground. One example I thought worth citing was Maria Ylagan Orosa, after whom a Malate street is named. A pharmacy graduate, she went into food chemistry and was known for introducing all kinds of food preservation techniques. One of her inventions was "Magic Food," which used soybeans to produce a high-protein food. She was able to get this food into the Japanese interment camps in Manila, Tarlac and Pampanga. It turns out Orosa was a captain in the Marking Guerrilla group. When the Americans began their air bombing Manila to "liberate" us in February 1943, she refused to take refuge. She was hit by shrapnel and died, at age 50, from her wounds.

Martial law

Although the Marcos dictatorship is fairly recent in our history, there's still far too little written up about the underground during that period. One reason may be that much of the anti-dictatorship struggle was led mainly by the Left, particularly the National Democratic Front, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army, groups considered "terrorist" today.

There were many of these women, I can tell you, from all walks of life and of all ages. I remember several Tandang Sora types, who would allow their homes to be used for meetings. I also knew two silver-headed lolas who would chauffeur underground activists around, soldiers at checkpoints waving them through with the most courteous of smiles.

With time, these courageous women's stories will be told but this early, we should at least remember the martyrs from that dark period. There was Liliosa Hilao, the first woman to be killed during martial law. A student activist, she was picked up by the military in April 1973 and tortured before muriatic acid was poured down her throat to make her death look like a suicide. Her death spurred many Filipinos to sympathize with the underground, and helped to create a human rights movement that remains active today.

Asuncion David Maramba has a good biography of Lorena Barros in "Six Young Filipino Martyrs." Barros was doing anthropology at the University of the Philippines but took to the hills to join the NPA, where she became known for her poems. Barros was killed in an encounter with the military in 1975. One of Barros' contemporaries, Purificacion Pedro, was executed by the military for organizing peasants.

I don't want to create the impression that armed struggle was the only pathway for our heroines. Filipina valor took many forms, from the nuns who would form human shields to protect ralliers, to the *doktoras* who chose to serve in the most remote rural areas even as their classmates left for greener pastures in the United States.

Then, too, there were the largely women-led small newspapers and magazines that dared to report the truth, what Marcos contemptuously referred to as the mosquito press. I still remember the no-holds barred articles of Ceres Doyo, for example. The best known "mosquito" was Eggy Apostol, whose Mr. & Ms and, later, the INQUIRER, proved that mosquitoes could be truly vexing to the most formidable of foes. Is it coincidental that only female mosquitoes bite?

Respect rights of 'riles' residents

THE RIGHT to adequate housing as a component of the right to a decent standard of living is enshrined in many international instruments, of which the most notable are the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

With the construction of the North Rail and the South Commuter Railway Systems, the 75,000 or more families living near the railway tracks fear that their right to adequate housing may be violated. The experience of the residents of Malabon in the past month has shown that they do not have enough information on the status of the project. And it is not clear where or to whom they may voice their concerns. The lack of information increases the social tension within the affected communities as they face perennial threats of demolition and the uncertainties of relocation.

The National Housing Authority, the agency tasked to implement the relocation, has been giving conflicting information that only confuse the railway residents. The affected families feel that the agency has not been quite sincere in dealing with the 1,700 member-families of the Federation of Informal Settlers in Malabon (Forisim).

Aware of the tense situation, the member-federations and NGOs belonging to Bantay Riles are urging President Macapagal-Arroyo and the concerned government agencies to:

1. Recognize the right to resettlement (which includes the right to alternative land or housing) and explore all feasible alternatives in consultation with the affected persons. Resettlements must be implemented in a just and equitable manner and in full accordance with the Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992.

2. Ensure that the resettlement areas are safe, secure, accessible, affordable and habitable, and provided with such basic services as roads, water, electricity and school facilities.

3. Provide the affected *"riles"* residents with compensation or "rehabilitation assistance" for their lost assets and for the restoration of their income and living standard, as well as employment and livelihood opportunities in the relocation area.

These calls are made to ensure that the quality of life of long-time *riles* residents does not decline once relocation is completed, that housing is accessible as well as affordable, and that basic services are guaranteed.

**—RAFFY ALBERT,
coordinator, Bantay Riles
c/o Center for Popular
Empowerment,
14 Maalahanin St.,
Teachers Village, Quezon City**

Not Christian

IT is high time for us to realize that our religious orientation has something to do with the rampant corruption in our country. Actually, many of us don't follow the Christian tenets.

Our country is predominantly Roman Catholic. And it is sad to see so much selfishness, corruption, and moral and spiritual wickedness in our time because we deviate from Christian teachings.

No, we are not a Christian country.

**—GREGORIO B. PAHUNANG,
Lot 4, Blk. 128, Phase 4-D,
Geography Street,
Sto. Niño, Meycauyan, Bulacan**

The more serious tragedy in Valentine's Day bombings

THE TRAGEDY of the bombing massacre on Valentine's Day is not only the death of many innocent Filipinos at the hands of their brother Filipinos, but also the stark threat staring us in the face—that terrorist bombings are easily replicable, with no easy "antidotes" in sight.

I am sure the authorities are racking their brains to prevent another bombing. May I suggest a measure that could be cost effective and at the same time improve traffic flow and safety, and compliance with traffic regulations.

In bus operations, the conductor is responsible for passenger management. But his chief and overriding concern is the ticketing and collecting of passenger fares. It would be too much to expect him to check on baggage and suspicious-looking passengers. I suggest that we revive the bus marshal system, wherein all passenger buses will each have one plainclothes marshal to monitor passengers and their baggage. The marshal can also monitor the observance of traffic rules by the driver, so that the latter will have no choice but drive with more road discipline and courtesy, thus minimizing accidents and improving traffic flow in our streets.

The cost of this marshal system is minimal compared to the value of human lives and property that would be lost in bombings, road accidents and holdups. Not to mention the benefit of having public buses suddenly moving around the metropolis with utmost discipline and courtesy.

Why not give this a try?

**—SAMUEL J. YAP,
118 Granada St.,
San Antonio Heights,
Sto. Tomas, Batangas**

Being No. 2 in corruption

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

I AM an avid reader of the INQUIRER and I commend the newspaper's commitment to balanced and responsible journalism. This is a reaction to its March 9 banner story, "RP No. 2 in Asia graft list." That was certainly another rude wake-up call.

Corruption is something I personally despise and condemn. But the way the INQUIRER presented the results of the survey conducted by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd., a Hong Kong-based consultancy group, (main headline above a very large picture of the President with the caption: "President Macapagal-Arroyo looks imploringly toward heaven...") showed insensitivity to the current state of our country.

We need to work together to help in our country's economic recovery. The last thing we need right now is another blow to our people's morale and something that could further fuel negative perception of our country among foreigners and businessmen. More than the task of bringing the news to the people, let us not forget that it is also our responsibility as citizens of the Philippines to contribute to its recovery in these most trying times.—**Meimei Fajardo, UP Village, Diliman, QC**

* * *

PERC's findings are way off the mark. We are totally, totally No. 1. *Numero uno* is what we are.—**Manny Ilao, 10111 Gilbert Road, Richmond, BC, Canada**

* * *

Despite its reference to the government's efforts and gains in curbing corruption, the sensationalist headline of the INQUIRER's banner story, "RP No. 2 on Asia graft list," put across a false message that the Philippines is a hopeless case (especially with the dolorous photograph of Ms Arroyo underneath it).

A Filipino who loves his country would refrain from such flagrant irresponsibility in the exercise of press freedom. I say flagrant, because your publication, having a wider readership than most newspapers, has the greater responsibility to report facts fairly and to refrain from sensationalist and damaging portrayals of the Philippines and of Filipinos.

At a time when Filipinos should stand against the great evil of corruption and unite to correct false perceptions about our country, it is deplorable that the INQUIRER, which should be among those taking the lead in this endeavor, would act as if unaware of such duty and highlight instead, the negative, thus taking out of the picture the positive efforts that have been and are being undertaken to fight corruption.—**Ethelind Fionguala, Manila**

* * *

Hold off the celebration. Wait until we grab first place. We're almost there. Right, Ms Arroyo?—**Ivy Viola, 67 San Pedro, California**

On population control

I would like to share this message with the bishops and lawmakers: Bishops run the churches, not the government, while it is the lawmakers, not the bishops, who enact laws. The separation of Church and State must be observed.

Bishops must answer to their conscience while lawmakers are accountable to the people who elected them. The bishops are guided by church doctrine while lawmakers must be guided by the national interest.—**Rey Corpuz, PO Box 2403, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

* * *

How refreshing it is to hear of the proposed law on women's reproductive rights. As stated in the INQUIRER editorial, "Useful debate," (PDI, 3/8/05), such a law is long overdue.

Responsible legislators are discovering that the separation of Church and State is a law in the Philippines. The country is finally wrenching itself free out of its centuries-old thraldom to the Church hierarchy.

I salute all the supporters of this bill. For their uncommon courage and determination, my Bicolana grandmother would describe those legislators *"oragon."*

How about a public education campaign to counter the priests' sermons? I'm sure celebrities will be willing to lend a hand in such an endeavor.

The people are intelligent: they can distinguish between the true values of their faith and the oppression by their religious leaders, exactly as Jose Rizal did.—**NS Rimonte, Culver City, CA**

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American irrigation exec blames NIA, DoF for delayed taxes

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—An official of a foreign contracting firm has asked the provincial government to settle the immediate payment of its real property tax with the National Irrigation Administration and the Department of Finance.

Raymond Cunningham, project manager of California Energy Casecnan Water and Energy Co. (CECWEC), said they were ready to pay their taxes but the NIA and DoF had asked them not to pay.

This developed as the provincial government demanded CECWEC to pay its real property tax amounting to more than P250 million for the construction and operation of the P700-million Casecnan multi-purpose irrigation and power project (CMIPP) in Alfonso Castañeda town.

Started in 1995 under a 20-year build-operate-transfer scheme, the project seeks to divert 800 million cubic meters of water from the rivers of Alfonso Castañeda to the Pantabangan Dam to irrigate 139,200 hectares of farmland in Central Luzon.

It also helps generate 140 to 150 megawatts of power in the Luzon grid. CMIPP became fully operational in December 2001. Earlier, the provincial board declared American executives of CECWEC undesirable aliens and demanded their deportation. Cunningham attended the session of the provincial board to shed light on the stalled real property tax payment.

Lawyer Linda Castillo, CECWEC vice president for legal and corporate affairs, said the outcome of the protest filed by the NIA on the real property tax assessment of the provincial government would have repercussions on other projects and facilities of international power producers in the country.

According to Castillo, the reason the NIA would like them to wait for their instruction was that they had raised legal issues on the appropriate appraisal level as well as tax rates by the provincial government. *Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

House asked to probe Batangas 'Juetengate'

BATANGAS CITY—A group fighting *jueteng* and other forms of illegal gambling has filed a petition asking Congress to investigate continued *jueteng* in Batangas allegedly involving some of the province's top officials, including one of its congressmen and its governor.

In a two-page petition, Abel Dimaano, the Batangas representative of the Konseho ng Mamamayan Laban sa Jueteng at mga Iligal na Pasugalan (Komalaban), accused Rep. Hermilando Mandanas and Gov. Armando Sanchez of involvement in *jueteng*.

The petition said Sanchez was "the biggest gambling lord in the province who wields a fearsome combination of money and political power that can absolutely corrupt any person."

The Sanchez administration flatly denied the allegation.

Lawyer Ronaldo Geron, the provincial administrator, said the information in Dimaano's petition is completely false.

"They can check from town to town and cities in Batangas. The accusation is definitely not true. In fact, there are towns like Bauan, where the governor has ordered the *jueteng* operation to stop," Geron said.

He also questioned the identity of Dimaano and Komalaban.

He said what Dimaano stated in his petition was totally unfair for the governor.

Mandanas said the accusation against him could be part of a campaign by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to discredit him.

"That's the Pagcor's funded PR (public relations) drive to discredit me because I was the one who filed a bill, followed by a resolution in Congress, to close them down because Pagcor's franchise is already expired," said Mandanas, Batangas second district congressman.

The Pagcor franchise, he said, had already expired on Jan. 1, 2002.

"I was the one who discovered that Pagcor's franchise has already lapsed, and I exposed them, filed a bill and resolution to close them. Now, Pagcor's officials are retaliating," he said.

Dimaano said Batangas is now in the grips of illegal gambling as Colombia is in narcotics, and the national government cannot seem to do anything about it.

"Komalaban is strongly urging the House of Representatives . . . to conduct an inquiry into the propriety of Rep. Hermilando Mandanas . . . endorsing and promoting the candidacy of Gov. Armando Sanchez, a known gambling lord, as his successor in the last elections," Dimaano said in his petition submitted to the House of Representatives March 2.

In the petition, Dimaano said big-time gambling lords in the country have turned provinces into their fiefdoms and have bonded as a "national" or organized *jueteng* syndicate that protects illegal gambling in every town and city.

Dimaano said the operation of *jueteng* persisted because the wealth acquired by its operators allowed them to buy positions in government.

"Thus, Pampanga is ruled by Bong Pineda, Laguna by Bert Lina, Quezon by Charing Magbuhos, Tarlac by the Roxas family, Bulacan by Boy Viceo, and Batangas by Armando Sanchez," Dimaano said.

The Sanchez administration said it considers the *jueteng* lord tag on the governor as collateral damage of the Mandanas-Pagcor war.

Dimaano said total *jueteng* bets average P70,000 to P150,000 a day in Batangas alone.

He said minus the 35-percent *payola*, gambling lords still rake in an estimated P2.5 million a day or P74.9 million a month.

He said the 33-35 percent *payola* from the total *jueteng* collection is used to pay for protection.

Fifteen percent of that 35-percent *payola* goes to the national syndicate, 3 percent to the mayor, and 2 percent each to the vice mayor and the chief of police. *Mei Magsino-Lubis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

MAYOR'S ORDER

Alcohol distillery closed due to pollution

By Eric Montoya
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

MANAOAG, Pangasinan—An alcohol distillery plant in Barangay Baritao here was finally closed on Tuesday following an order from Mayor Napoleon Sales who acted on complaints of affected residents from eight villages here.

Police closed the Alko Distillery Plant here which had been subject of numerous complaints from residents in the past six years due to pollution.

Mayor Napoleon Sales issued the order on the recommendation of the municipal council committee on health and sanitation which concluded that the Alko Plant was emitting "microorganisms, chemicals, toxic acid, corrosive agents, fumes and other toxic wastes."

A report by the council's committee on public works, infrastructure and land use also found the plant to be "detrimental and prejudicial to the health and safety of the residents."

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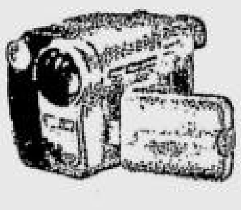

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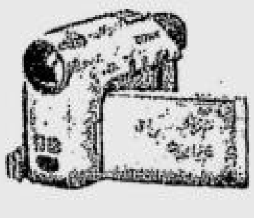

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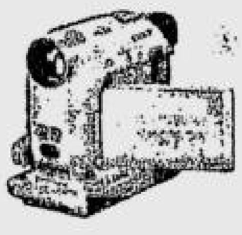

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Vegetable traders assail gov't lack of toughness vs smuggling

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet—Vegetable industry leaders here have assailed the government's lack of political will to curb the smuggling of and to regulate the importation of foreign vegetables.

If last year's performance were the basis, they said, there much is to be desired from the Bureau of Customs and the Bureau of Plant Industry in protecting locally produced vegetables from unfair competition.

The BOC is in charge of checking shipments of vegetables in all ports while the BPI is tasked with issuing import permits.

Benguet Board Member John Kim said the BOC had not done its duty to prevent vegetable smuggling while the BPI had been easy in giving import permits to vegetable importers.

"The result was disastrous as foreign vegetables, which entered the country through smuggling and legal importation, brought down the prices of local products," he said.

Kim, together with Alfredo Alangdeo, president of the Benguet Vegetable Distributors Cooperative; Edson Simeon, president of the Early Bird Traders Association; Jonathan Tercero, president of the Bagsakan Clusters Association and Agustin Diwas, director of the Benguet Vegetables Distributors Cooperative, recently submitted to the provincial government a comprehensive report on the status of the vegetable industry in the province.

Their report said that last year alone, 768,000 kg of onions, 632,008 kg of carrots, 216,000 kg of garlic, 18,000 kg of potatoes and 7,500 kg of broccoli illegally entered South Harbor at the Port Area.

The figures do not include those that may have entered the Manila International Container Port and the Subic Free Port.

Aside from the smuggled vegetables, 36.42 million kg of assorted vegetables were also imported last year. They were covered with 720 import permits given to 58 vegetable importers and 30 institutional buyers.

Of these legally imported vegetables, potatoes topped the list with 11.4 million kg. They came from Holland, Germany and New Zealand, the report said.

Most of the broccoli, cauliflower, celery and lettuce came from Austria while carrots, garlic, onions and leafy vegetables came from China.

"Imagine the volume of foreign vegetables that ate a big chunk of the market for locally produced vegetables," Kim said. "If this trend continues, the Benguet vegetable industry will soon die."

Kim said the BOC must use all its resources to stop smuggling and the BPI must only issue import permits when necessary and only to processors and not end-users, he said.

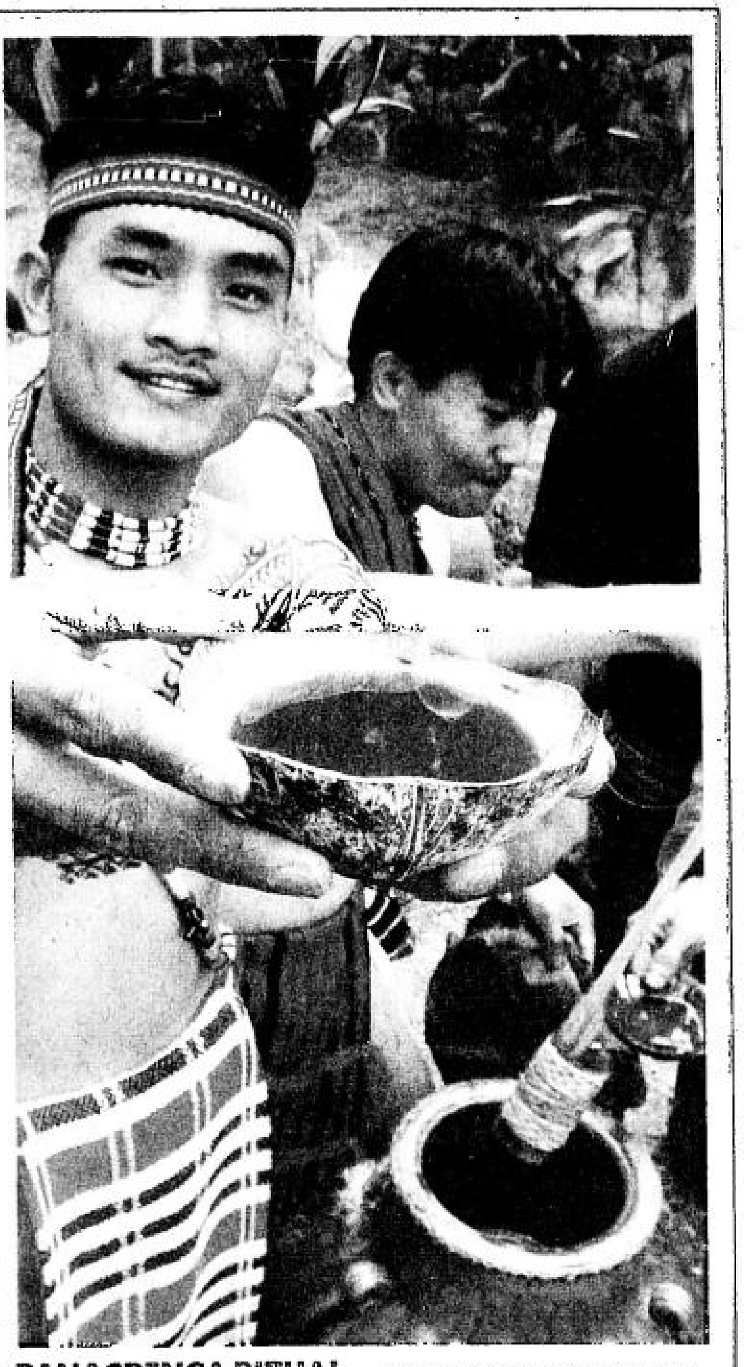
He said that the BPI has always reasoned that only processors are given import permits.

Processors, he said, are those institutional buyers who do not sell their imported vegetables directly to the consumers since the vegetables will still have to be processed into another finished product.

"How are we sure that legally imported vegetables last year were really meant for processors and not for consumers?" Kim asked.

"When our farmers complain of low prices, this means that their major buyers in Manila are being flooded with imported products," he said.

Kim cited the case of potatoes. Last year, he said, the price per kilo ranged at the average of P6 to P12 a kilo due to a glut caused by imported and smuggled potatoes. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



PANAGBENGA RITUAL EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Igorots perform a ritual during the closing of the Panagbenga Festival in Baguio City March 5. They served rice wine to visitors and guests at the closing ceremonies in Melvin Jones, Baguio City.

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Iloilo water rationing starts

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Metro Iloilo Water District (MIWD) has started rationing water supply to its consumers after the water level from its main source, the Tigum River, dropped to its lowest level ever.

MIWD general manager Le Jaime Jalbuena said that starting yesterday, water supply was rationed in the towns of Maasin, Cabatuan, Santa Barbara and Pavia, and half of Iloilo City including the districts of La Paz, Jaro and Mandurriao.

These areas will only have regular water supply ranging from two to 17 hours each day and from three times to daily each week.

Jalbuena said they were also advising consumers to store and conserve water to minimize the impact of the low water supply.

He said the water level has dropped significantly because of the below-normal rainfall due to the El Niño phenomenon.

El Niño is a global phenomenon associated with extreme climatic changes characterized by devastating rains, winds, drought and other events.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration earlier warned that provinces in Northern Luzon and some areas in the Visayas would be affected by the phenomenon.

Jalbuena said the water level dropped to 93.62 meters, which is below the operating minimum level of 94 meters.

The water level is below the previous record low of 93.66 meters recorded in April 2003.

He said the rationing would depend on the weather condition. "This (water level) could become lower because it is still a month before the peak of the summer season," Jalbuena told the INQUIRER.

The MIWD extracts water from the Tigum River through an intake dam in Barangay Daja in Maasin, town 29.5 km northwest of Iloilo City. It also gets its supply from seven pumping stations in deep wells in Oton and San Miguel towns.

It provides around one million cubic meters of water monthly to around 21,000 customers.

Lack of funds derails Panguil Bridge project

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—Fiscal woes facing the national government has derailed the start of the 1.9-kilometer Panguil Bay Bridge, a big-ticket project that is expected to boost the economic integration of Mindanao.

Misamis Occidental Gov. Loreto Leo Ocampos, chair of northern Mindanao's regional development council, said they have already clinched the approval of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) to fund the bridge construction but the national government's inability to put up counterpart financing has prevented the project's start.

The cost of the project was lowered from P6 billion to P2.5 billion as a result of a new design.

Under the JBIC funding arrangement, the national government has to shell out P1 billion in counterpart funds.

But Ocampos said officials at the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the main project proponent, told them there is no available budget for that.

Ocampos noted that the only time the national government was able to allocate money for the project was in 1998, amounting to over P100 million, through the Southern Philippines Development Authority. It was intended to conduct a project feasibility study and promote it for funding.

But this fund was diverted to finance several pet projects of then Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Nur Misuari.

The financing strategy for the project now shifts to fund-and-build, a modified version of the build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme.

With it, the local government units of Tangub City, Tubod town, and Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte provinces also become the main project proponents, said Ocampos, who was recently appointed by the four local governments to represent them in the business talks.

Currently, negotiations are ongoing with Chinese investors, he said, adding that the talks considered a number of funding possibilities like loans.

One possibility the proponent local governments are preparing is the demand by Chinese financiers for them to put up about 10 percent equity in the project.

Under the modified BOT scheme, project investors get a return on investment through the bridge toll.

Currently, some 2,000 vehicles and 5,000 people cross Panguil Bay daily through a roll-on-roll-off ferry service that operates between Kolambugan town in Lanao del Norte and Ozamiz City.

When built, the Panguil Bay Bridge is expected to facilitate increased trade and commerce between the northern, central and western Mindanao regions. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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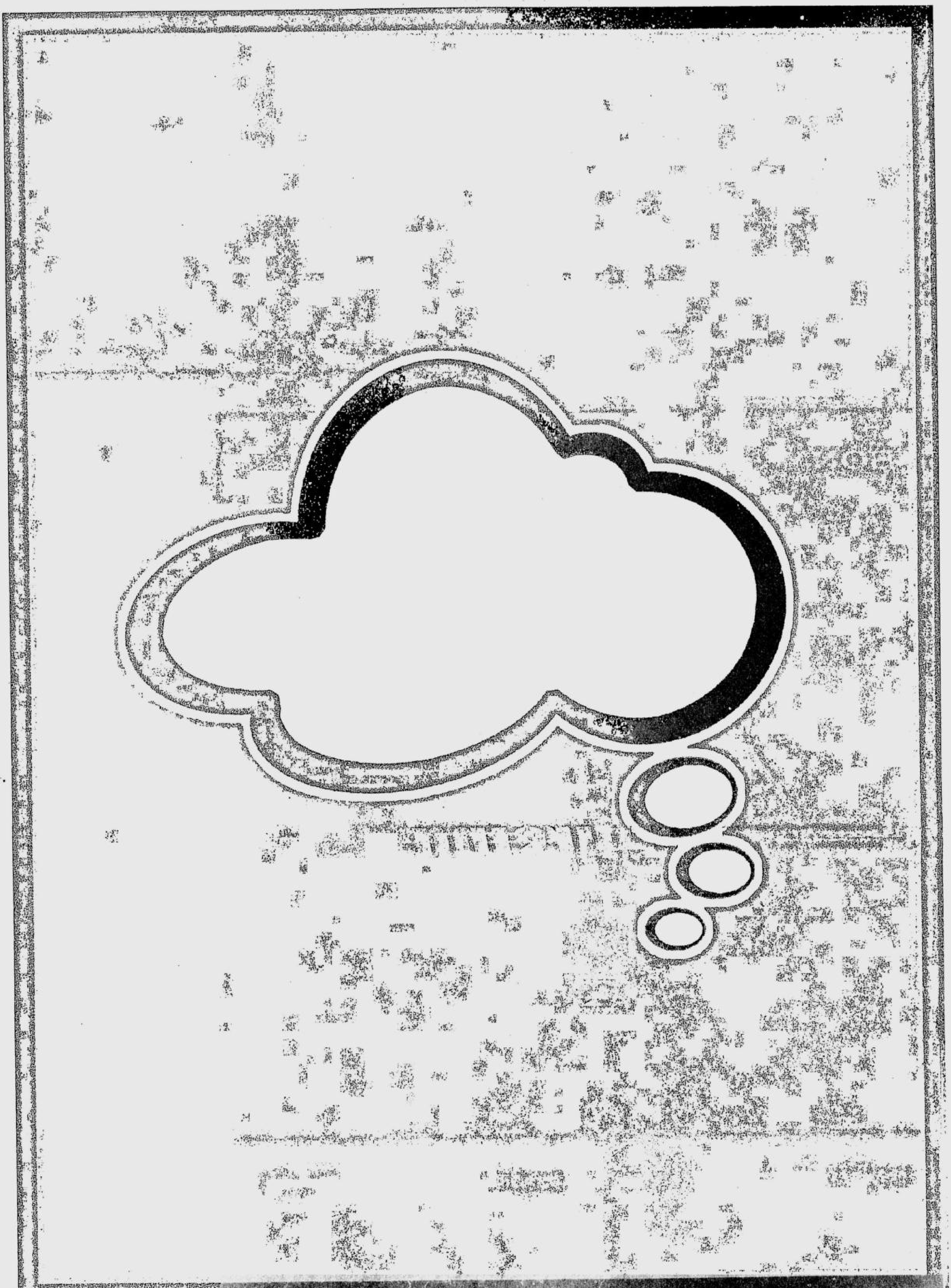

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

GMA terminates ₱655-M Agusan project of Erap

BUTUAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the immediate termination and rebidding of the controversial 36-kilometer, P655 million road concreting project of deposed President Joseph Estrada in Agusan del Sur.

The President, who visited the province on Monday afternoon, made public her announcement after she witnessed that nobody was working on the project, which links the towns of Bayugan and Prosperidad, the provincial center.

"I saw that nobody was working on the road rehabilitation of the Bayugan-Prosperidad section. I have directed the DPWH to send a notice of termination of contract and to send notice for new bidders," the President said.

Since construction started in 1998 during the term of Estrada, the multimillion road project has been snail-paced and marred with allegations of widespread graft and bickering among politicians.

Called the gateway of the impoverished province to the neighboring regions, the project was funded by the Japanese Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) under the Philippines–Japanese Friendship Highways Agreement. It is scheduled to be completed in February 2006.

Romeo Momo, regional director of public works and highways in Caraga, warned that the President's order terminating the contract might result in the cancellation of the loan with the JBIC.

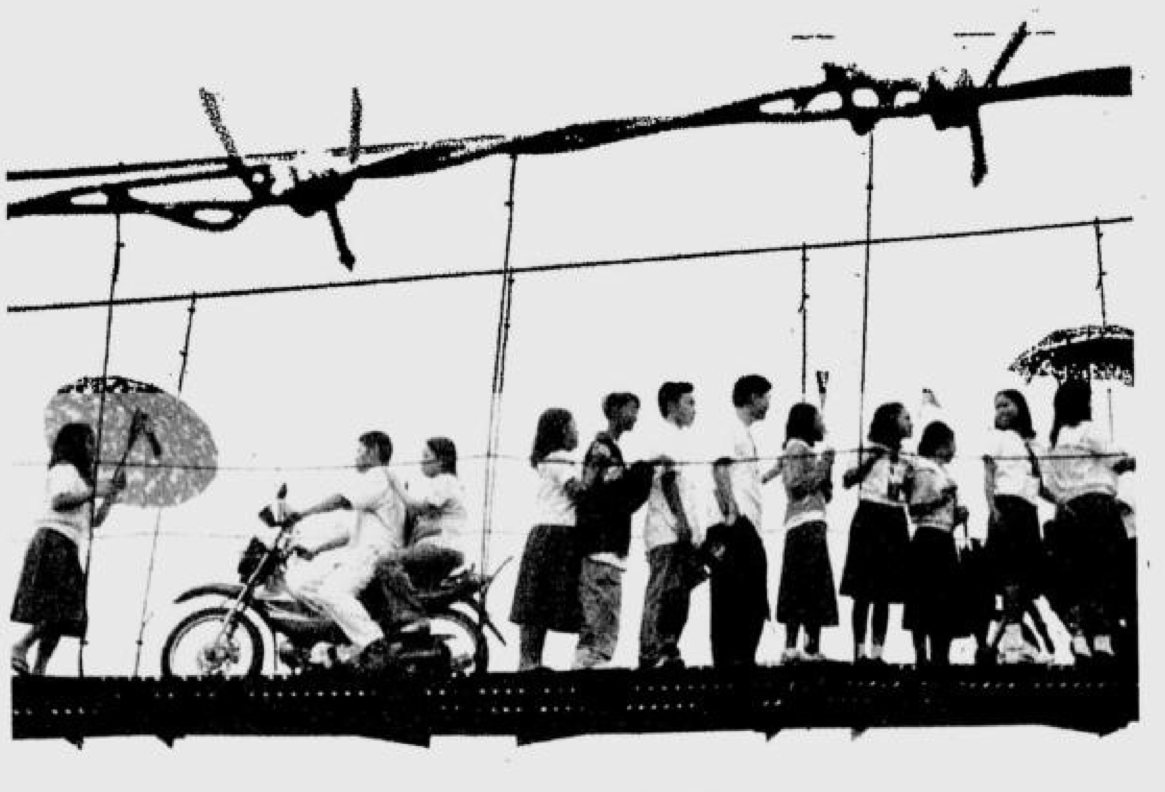
"The cancellation of the contract might lead to the forfeiture of the loan by the JBIC," he added.

Momo also confirmed that the construction of the controversial project has incurred a negative three slippage due to climatic factors.

"The contractor J.M. Luciano and Dimsun Consortium said that the delay was largely because of the weather condition," Momo said.

But the official refused to comment on allegations that corruption and bickering among local politicians over favored contractors were the reasons for its delay.

Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau



LINK EDWIN BACASMAS

Residents of San Luis, Agusan del Sur cross a hanging bridge that is their main link to major roads in the town.

Govs' group urges more logical VAT

THE UNION of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), the association of the country's provincial governors, yesterday urged Congress to pass a Value Added Tax (VAT) bill that will live up to its revenue targets, easy to implement and shorn of loopholes that tax cheats use as a refuge.

In a press statement, Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, Ulap spokesperson, said the urgency of resolving the country's fiscal situation calls for statesmanship of the highest order on the part of the members of Congress and "a clear appreciation of not biting the bullet now."

"The ball is in Congress' court, and the whole country is watching how our leaders will handle this legislation," Evardone said.

He said the proposed "two-tier VAT system invites complications that most expert agree would make enforcement complicated and tax avoiders difficult to track."

"The clock is ticking ominously. We have been put on notice that unless the revenue measures now pending in Congress are passed, particularly the VAT, the Philippines faces more credit rating downgrades. One would guess that the next downgrade can only be more devastating than the previous one," the Eastern Samar governor said.

He said his colleagues in the Ulap are pushing for the approval of the administration proposed revenue measures because they realize that the development of the countryside would continue to lag if the country's fiscal house remains shaky.

ROUNDUP

Video games limit sought

CITY OF CALAPAN—Members of the Pastoral Care Council, a multi-sectoral forum for issues and concerns, have criticized the weak implementation of an ordinance regulating video games in the city. In the council's meeting on Friday, Noemi Baldos, representing the provincial government, noted that children playing video games go home late in the evening, even at midnight. Darwin Villarosa, city planning officer, said video games should only operate from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. "Beyond 9 p.m., those still operating can be reported to the city," he said. But Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig said the police should implement the law even without a report from concerned citizens as part of their jobs.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Burning of rice husks scored

CITY OF CALAPAN—Oriental Mindoro Bishop Warlito Cajandig has called the attention of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources here on the practice of burning rice husks along the highway as it harms the environment. Cajandig asked provincial environment officials to prohibit the burning of rice husks on the highway as "it pollutes the environment, kills the ozone layer and kills some trees." He recommended the revocation of the licenses of rice mills that do not have dumping grounds. Rep. Alfonso Umali noted that rice husks are not wastes but have uses. Umali said there are already bio-mixing plants in Naujan and Gloria towns which use rice husks in making fertilizers.

Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New board member installed

SORSOGON CITY—The Commission on Elections, in an *en banc* decision, has nullified the proclamation of the fifth member of the provincial board and installed a new member. The Comelec decision gave way to the petition filed by Olaf Gotladera, who questioned the proclamation of Board Member Tony Giliana, as he claimed that there was an error in the tallying of the final vote count he garnered from Matnog town. The Comelec found that 200 votes from Matnog were not properly credited to Gotladera. Matnog election officer Felizardo Fernandez also executed an affidavit attesting to the erroneous entry in the canvass and statement of votes. Gotladera, who took his oath of office immediately after proclamation, got 27,288 votes as against Giliana's 27,088.

Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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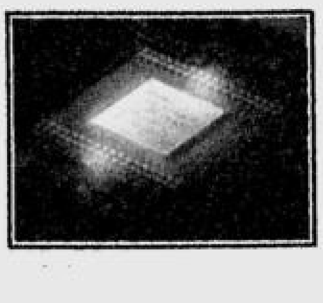

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Mass burial for Bohol kids

From page A1

hopes for a better life on Wilfredo, who had wanted to become a policeman or an artist when he grew up.

"He had wanted to finish school and become successful for us," Luyong said.

5 candles

Two houses down, Prexides Vallente lit five white candles on the coffin of her grandson, Noel Isidore, another victim of the poisoned cassava. His parents were at a nearby hospital where Noel's brother was recovering.

"This tragedy could not be explained," Vallente said, her face illuminated by the faint yellowish glow of the candlelight.

Men from the village had carried 10 other coffins, some covered with pink and red paper flowers, to the chapel while a throng of villagers stood silently in the courtyard.

"I love you so much my dear one, my dear one," cried Lorenza Nasas as the coffin of her 7-year-old son, Sherwin, was brought into the chapel. Relatives gave her a swig of a local brew to keep her from fainting.

Old men and women wept and hugged each other, while soldiers armed with rifles strained not to show any emotion. The troops were in the town to augment security for a brief visit by President Macapagal-Arroyo to offer her condolences.

GMA visit

The President flew to the area by helicopter from Cebu City. She ordered the release of relief funds as she declared a state of calamity in Mabini.

Under such a state, the mayor could use five percent of his calamity funds to meet the needs of San Jose residents.

Ms Arroyo also ordered some of the stricken children still recovering in ill-equipped medical facilities in Bohol be airlifted to better hospitals.

"I want the police to work with health authorities to give me a detailed report on why and how this unfortunate incident happened," Ms Arroyo said in a statement. "Let us get to the root cause of this tragedy."

Yesterday, neighbors consoled parents who lost their children, while classmates of those who had died milled around a plaza whispering to each other.

Residents chanted prayers to soothe those left behind and a pall of gloom hung thick in the dusty air.

"This is an unspeakable tragedy that can't be blamed on anyone. We have lost our angels," said Vice Mayor Ester Tabigue as she made the rounds of households holding wakes.

"School has been cancelled for the rest of the week while we try to make sense of what happened," she said.

Funeral Mass

It was no ordinary funeral rite that drew more than 250 villagers. Fr. Julian Asucan, the parish priest of San Roque that covers San Jose, and 11 other priests took part in the concelebrated Mass.

Education Secretary Florencio Abad spoke briefly to express solidarity with the victims' families, along with Rances.

The coffins were roughly done and hurriedly painted in white. A provincial official said each coffin cost only P1,500.

Only two of the coffins sported wreaths of cheap colored paper and plastic flowers placed in mackerel cans.

The names etched on the uniformly constructed wooden crosses were hardly readable.

To the families of the first batch of victims of Wednesday's mass poisoning, however, the moment of goodbye was too painful that they were oblivious to the presence of important guests.

It did not matter that their humbleness was evident in the clothes that they wore.

Procession

Except for one mother, most wore faded dresses while one father only had on a torn sleeveless shirt.

One mother fainted repeatedly while another could not prevent herself from sobbing on top of her child's coffin while replacing the candle that had burned out.

As if on cue, the muffled sobs turned into shrieks and shouts when the solemn procession started out of the packed little chapel for the cemetery less than a kilometer away.

Barangay chair Donato Busbus said he was happy that an incumbent President had visited his barangay but he was sad it was under such conditions.

Head teacher Aprodicio Boyles disclosed that he still did not know when classes would resume in the school which only has a population of 276 pupils. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and* INQUIRER *wires*

IN THE KNOW

MABINI is one of Bohol's 48 towns. It is located on the eastern coast of the province, 104 kilometers away from the capital city of Tagbilaran.

It was created on July 23, 1904, the birthday of Apolinario Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic.

Land area: 10,457.5 hectares

Income classification: 5th class

Number of barangays: 22

Population (2000): 27,250

Registered voters (2004): 12,912

Number of households: 5,047

Major industries: Farming, fishing and milling

Ave. LGU annual income: P6,881,403.02

SOURCES: NATIONAL STATISTICAL COORDINATION BOARD, BOHOL GOVERNMENT WEBSITE, NATIONAL COMPUTER CENTER'S ELGU WEBSITE

LIST OF FATALITIES

The following names of the 26 fatalities in Wednesday's food poisoning in Mabini, Bohol, were provided by the town's mayor, Stephen Rances:

Jason Dupit, 7
Nilo Martinito, 8
Diana Rose Daigdigan, 8
Melvyn Luyong, 7
Chiovy Ochavillo, 8
John Ronnie Linggas, 7
Estella Fe Salaum, 12
Kevin Salaum, 11
Anna Rose Salaum, 7
Michelle Gambuta, 8
Wilfredo Luyong Jr., 7
Edo Fernandez, 7
Jumar Lomotos, 13
Cerila Sanchez, 13
Julieta Sanchez, 11
Vina Mae Cual, 7
Aiza Tuyogon, 9
Juanito Hinampas, 9
Riza Valleser, 9
Sammy Montilla, 11
Justin Salaum, 10
Pablita Peligrino, 10
Leomar Sanayan, 7
Judy Ann Busbus, 8
Isidore Noel Vallente, 8
Sherwin Asas, 7

Was it cyanide or rat poison in cassava?

From page A1

chief Dr. Angelita Salarda, said several versions of what could have caused the food poisoning at the San Jose Elementary School surfaced from interviews with survivors.

Initial reports said the children, aged 7-13, ate three kinds of cassava preparation—*maruya* (fried caramelized cassava slices), *turon* (rolls) and *butsi-butsi* (balls). Most of the survivors interviewed by the INQUIRER said they had eaten either the *turon* or the *butsi-butsi*, but authorities had yet to pinpoint which one had caused the poisoning.

All of the food items were being sold for one peso each.

Salarda said some of the pupils claimed that the cooking oil used to fry the grated cassava had been placed in a container that originally held chemicals for rat extermination.

Health officials earlier theorized that the deaths were caused by cyanide poisoning resulting from bad preparation. Cassava tubers contain cyanide that have to be removed to make them edible, they said.

In Manila, Dr. Troy Gepte, medical specialist at the Department of Health's National Epidemiology Center, told reporters that "the cause of the outbreak seems to be cyanide poisoning secondary to the ingestion of cassava food products."

Cyanide, when ingested, keeps red blood cells from distributing oxygen in the body and thereby causes skin darkening, headaches and hypotension, he said.

The ingestion might have even been aggravated by organophosphate, another deadly chemical that might have contaminated the oil in which the cassava was fried, he said.

Gepte said health officials were now administering atropine to counter this poison and sodium nitrite and sodium thiosulfate for cyanide.

The nitrite will take the cyanide out of the hemoglobin, while the thiosulfate will flush out the poison in the system, he said.

Gepte said what was clear so far was that the victims showed symptoms usually associated with cyanide poisoning—vomiting and intense stomach pains.

He said the condition could kill a victim within minutes or hours depending on the amount of cyanide ingested.

Children were more likely to be overcome by the poison considering their small bodies, he said.

Pesticide?

Eduardo Alama, regional technical director of the Department of Agriculture, raised concerns over reports that a toxic chemical, organophosphate, was found in the stomach of one of the fatalities.

But George Pacalba, regional crop specialist, said the report had yet to be verified. Organophosphate is a pesticide and it would be "very alarming," he said, if this chemical had found its way into the food.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo comforts one of the food poisoning victims in Mabini town at a clinic in the nearby town of Ubay. The President made a quick trip to Mabini on her way to Dumaguete City.

MALACANANG PHOTO

Organophosphate compounds include some of the most toxic chemicals used in agriculture, according to the website of the Department of Natural Resources of Michigan. It said acute signs of organophosphate poisoning could result within 1-12 hours following inhalation or absorption and more rapidly following ingestion.

Signs of organophosphate poisoning include excess salivation, abdominal pain, vomiting, intestinal hypermotility and diarrhea. It can cause an increase in bronchial secretions, involuntary, irregular, violent muscle contractions and weakness of voluntary muscles.

Death occurs as a result of respiratory failure, the website said.

Bohol Bishop Christian Noel floated his own theory about the poisoning.

Insecticide?

Farmers had reportedly been spraying a higher amount of insecticide on mango trees the past two days because it was raining, he said in a radio interview.

"So the rain took those insecticides to the roots of the cassava—that's one of the theories," he said.

Citing a report filed by Bohol DepEd superintendent Cernina Bolos, education officials said Bolos had inspected the source of the cassava, including the field where the root crop had been planted, to find out about possible contamination.

Gascon said Bolos discovered that the cassava was planted in a low field adjacent to a hill. Education officials theorized that pesticide from the hill flowed down to the cassava field and contaminated the crops.

Mabini police yesterday said that Victoria Hibaya, one of the two vendors who sold the cassava at the school, was staying at their station "for safekeeping."

"We are merely keeping her in case of possible complaints arising from the incident," Senior Insp. Jason Mangaron, the town's police chief, told the INQUIRER in Cebuano.

Mangaron said Hibaya, 59, agreed to go with his men who picked her up yesterday afternoon when news of the food poisoning broke out.

Hibaya said she did not believe that the food she sold had caused the poisoning.

She said she started selling the same cassava preparation on Monday, and had eaten some of it herself and she never got ill.

Hibaya said she bought the tubers from a neighbor who had a cassava field. She said she prepared the cassava by first grating the tubers, thoroughly removing the sap and forming it into *butsi-butsi* (balls) to be fried in cooking oil.

Hibaya said she did not know what kind of cassava preparations were being sold by the other vendor, Anna Luyong.

Luyong, a poisoning victim herself, is confined at the Celestino Gallares Hospital in Tagbilaran City. Her husband Fernando refused to have her interviewed Thursday morning because she was still in critical condition.

Luyong could not talk because she remained hooked to a breathing apparatus, Benabaye said after meeting with the hospital chief, Dr. Nenita Po.

Precaution

Alama advised residents of Mabini to refrain from eating cassava as a precautionary measure, or until after health authorities had concluded their investigation.

The agriculture official found this incident unfortunate since Mabini is one of the Visayas' emerging production areas for cassava. He said the department had encouraged the planting of cassava in the town after a beverage company pledged to buy the crops for its starch requirement.

Benabaye said she ordered the municipal health officer to submit specimens for testing, especially the gastric washings of the victims, the leftover food, and other items used in the food preparation.

Benabaye said toxicologists and other experts from Manila, who were sent yesterday to Mabini by Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, would bring the items back to Manila for laboratory test. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra in Manila and* INQUIRER *wires*

Barbers accused of diverting relief goods

From page A1

AO 53 provides that "under no circumstances should the commodities be released for distribution in bales or in original packages."

Another DSWD regulation, Administrative Order No. 171, provides that "the rate of (nonfood) assistance shall be based on the need assessed by the social worker," according to the G-Watch report.

Only politician on list

A DSWD consolidated report also showed Barbers got 5,000 kilos of the relief material. He was the only politician on the list.

The biggest volume—256 kilos of used clothing—went to the Pamaskong Handog program in Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte.

A photocopy of the requisition and issue slip (RIS) from the DSWD Field Office 13 in Caraga showed that the bales of clothing were delivered to Barbers and received by his secretary, Vilma Planillas, on Jan. 17, 2003.

Forty-seven bales weighed 100 kilos each, while six bales weighed 50 kilos each, according to the document. It said the used clothing were "for the constituents of Senator Barbers."

The RIS was signed by DSWD Caraga Regional Director Jim Rebustillo as approving authority, upon the recommendation of Araceli Solamillo, then assistant regional director. Solamillo is now the regional director.

Asked to explain the delivery of the used clothing to Barbers, Solamillo and other staffers of the DSWD in Caraga told G-Watch that they initially denied the request because it violated their department guidelines.

"However, they were forced to release the bales of clothing to comply with the verbal order from the Central Office," the G-Watch report said. The DSWD officials who gave the order were not identified.

Gonzalez's axiom: If you can't lick it, ignore it

From page A1

conducted by the Hong Kong-based Political and Economic Risk Consultancy Inc. (PERC) showing the Philippines as the second most corrupt country in Asia.

"I think we should just disregard that," he said. "That is a conclusion of people who are holier than thou. Even the [United Nations] has corruption. Even the UN secretary general is charged with corruption."

Gonzalez, a former deputy speaker of the House, said the Philippines should not allow itself to be "judged by foreigners"—a reference to the more than 900 expatriate businessmen polled in the PERC survey.

"*Takot na takot tayo doon* [We are so afraid of them]. As for me, I'm not bothered by those who rate me," said Gonzalez, whose confirmation as justice secretary is still up in the air after it met with opposition from some groups including the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

He said the better judge of the country was its own government and its people.

Addressing a female TV reporter, Gonzalez added: "I think the better judge of yourself is your husband."

Unfair

Asked whether graft would go away if the government simply ignored the PERC findings, Gonzalez replied: "I cannot guarantee you that. But we should not feel that [it] is the end-all ... That will demoralize us in trying to institute reforms."

He said it was unfair of PERC to say that graft had been present in the Philippines for the last 15 years without pinpointing specific administrations.

"It may have been aggravated, or ... what was stolen then had already multiplied," he said.

Gonzalez said he did not believe that the Philippines was the second most corrupt nation in Asia, and took PERC to task for smearing the country's image abroad.

But the justice department has had its share of accusations of corruption.

Some of its fiscals have been called "fixcals" (meaning, they "fix" legal cases for a fee), and some of its judges, "hoodlums in robes."

Humiliating

Another son of ousted President Joseph Estrada weighed in on the PERC survey findings.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, who is being tried with his father for plunder at the Sandiganbayan, took the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo to task for the Philippines' "humiliating" ranking in the survey, saying it had failed to institute "serious political and social reforms."

"After four years in power, she has shown nothing to solve the problem of graft and corruption. When we talk of graft and corruption, her family is always included; her family is always suspect," the senator said of Ms Arroyo in an ambush interview.

San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, Jinggoy's half-brother, said Wednesday that the Philippines should have been ranked No. 1 in the PERC survey by virtue of "the Arroyo administration's blatant abuse of power and misuse of our treasures."

Jinggoy also said the President had been helpless in prosecuting "suspected grafters" in and out of the government.

He cited the case of retired Gen. Carlos Garcia, who had come under fire for unexplained wealth and is facing only perjury charges before the Ombudsman "although a prima facie case for plunder has been established."

"She can't do anything. She hasn't done anything to jail the military grafters," said the senator.

Ironic

Jinggoy said it was ironic for the Philippines to have such a corruption rating four years after civil society groups succeeded in unseating his father over "alleged corruption."

He said that during his father's time, "the country was No. 45 in the list of most corrupt nations in the world, but that "during the early years of GMA, we were ranked No. 11 and lately ... No. 2."

To overcome the country's negative image, Ms Arroyo should show seriousness in her efforts to root out corruption, Jinggoy said.

"She's got to be serious in solving the problem," he said. "She should set an example. Not only Garcia. There are big-time smugglers in the Bureau of Customs, big-time collectors in the Bureau of Internal Revenue. There are a lot of them. Almost all the government agencies are graft-ridden already."

"Lifestyle checks are not enough," he added, referring to the checks being conducted on government officials living lavishly.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BIR trains guns on celebrities…

From page A1

by Design Inc. because they allegedly did not declare or pay taxes in 1995. Including surcharges and interests, their tax liability now reportedly amounts to P10.6 million.

Executives of the firm, which sells sports and exercise equipment, were also charged with filing fraudulent income tax returns, nonpayment of the value-added tax and perjury.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Juan said her lawyers would answer for her after they shall have verified the complaint. But she said the situation was different from what the BIR and DOF presented it to be.

Fraud

Juan, a stockholder, treasurer and director of Fitness by Design, said it was the company that sued the BIR in connection with its income in 1995. Fitness by Design manager Delfin Ferrer and accountant Olivia Mendoza were also charged by the DOF and BIR.

Claiming, to be still in its pre-operation stage, Fitness by Design did not declare any income in 1995, according to Parayno.

But data gathered by the BIR showed the company was already operating that year. The DOF, head agency of the BIR, said the company sold several pieces of equipment in 1995, as proved by invoices and official receipts issued to its customers.

"Customers, who presented receipts and certified that they paid for products and services, sold to them by Fitness by Design confirmed this," the DOF said in the statement.

Parayno said the company had tried to enter into a compromise agreement with the BIR, hoping to have the tax liabilities reduced. But Parayno said the company's request for compromise was unlikely to be granted because its cases involved fraud.

He said nonpayment of taxes with an element of fraud was not covered by any compromise arrangement under the National Internal Revenue Code.

Botox treatment

Mendez was accused of not filing income tax returns for 2001 and 2002. He was also accused of under-declaration of his taxable income, and nondeclaration of sales receipts by business outlets in 2003.

Mendez owns Mendez Body and Face Salons and Spas, which caters mostly to socialites and television and show business personalities.

The seven outlets of Mendez reportedly charge up to P25,000 a package for a doctor-supervised Botox treatment.

His known financial transactions, which he did not declare for income tax purposes from 2001 to 2003, included foreign trips, purchase of vehicles, unreported receipts from several of his salons, and unreported income from capital investments.

Mendez was not available for comment.

Predictive accounting

The DOF said revenue authorities detected Mendez's failure to comply with his tax obligations with the use of predictive auditing.

Bonoan said the audit included checking on Mendez's foreign trips with the Bureau of Immigration and his vehicles registered with the Land Transportation Office.

The DOF said authorities also uncovered Mendez's unreported capital investments after they obtained undeclared receipts from several of his salons. The amount of Mendez's unpaid tax liabilities is still being determined.

Bonoan said the filing of criminal cases against Juan and Mendez was meant to instill fear in local tax evaders.

"In other countries, people dread with fear the filing of tax evasion cases against them," he said.

Bonoan said the nonpayment of taxes was an injustice to those who regularly pay their taxes.

MORE THAN A CALL CENTER
President Macapagal-Arroyo tries on a speaker phone during her visit Thursday to a medical transcription facility on the Foundation University campus in Dumaguete City. Entheos IT Inc., owned by the Sinco family, offers transcription services to health care professionals around the world. Behind the President is Negros Oriental Gov. George Arnaiz. EDWIN BACASMAS

Hong Kong's leader resigns after 8 years …

From page A1

was quitting, Tung Chee-hwa called a news conference and said that he wanted to step down because of fatigue and other unspecified health problems that began late last year. He said he had trouble standing for long periods of time.

"If I continue as chief executive, I won't be able to handle it," he said.

Tung's position would be temporarily filled by the No. 2 ranking official, Donald Tsang—a popular bow tie-wearing career civil servant who was educated at Harvard and received a knighthood for his service during British colonial rule.

Tung said that he tendered his resignation with China's leadership an hour before his announcement and that he hoped Beijing would accept it "as soon as possible."

He denied wide speculation that China pushed him out. China has "repeatedly affirmed the work that I and my colleagues and the government has done. That [forced resignation] is not the case at all," he said.

Tung's exit triggered Hong Kong's first leadership change since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" formula, designed to give the territory a wide degree of autonomy.

Loss of confidence

James Sung, a political analyst at City University, said he believed Beijing dumped Tung because the communist leadership lost faith in him.

"Beijing has been tightening political freedoms to make sure Hong Kong is not in troubled waters," said "But with Tung's political skills and judgment, he is clearly not up for the job."

The global financial capital has become increasingly politicized. The last two years of Tung's rule have seen the largest-ever street protests for greater democracy and less Chinese control—displays that alarmed China.

The 67-year-old Tung was a shipping tycoon with little political experience when he was picked to be Hong Kong's first chief executive. Tung was elected by an 800-person election committee, dominated by people partial to Beijing.

He has struggled to raise his public approval ratings. Many believe that his administration bungled two major crises—the 1997 Asian financial meltdown and the 2003 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. His critics say he's too close to big business and insensitive to the hardships of the common people.

Joseph Cheng, a political scientist at City University of Hong Kong, also thought that China believed it was time for Tung to go.

"If China wanted him to stay, he would have stayed," Cheng said.

Donald Tsang

Tsang might be Beijing's idea of a complete package—a man known to follow orders without wavering and a battle-hardened civil servant who can run a bureaucracy.

"He has the mentality of a loyal servant. He just follows his boss … It's just that his bosses keep changing," said Ma Ngok, a political scientist at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology.

The 800-member election committee would have to elect another chief executive within six months, and many believe that Tsang would get the job if he does well.

But a divisive constitutional controversy seems to be brewing over how long the next elected chief executive will serve.

Some lawmakers and legal experts have argued that the Basic Law, Hong Kong's mini constitution, clearly says that the next elected chief executive should get a new five-year term, rather than serve out the two-year remainder of Tung's term.

Beijing—which favors the two-year option—might have to provide a constitutional interpretation.

It's possible that the jockeying for power that Tung struggled to control might intensify if the next elected leader only gets a two-year term. The leader's challengers in the next scheduled election in 2007 might try to undercut him and thwart any progress that would make him look good, analysts say.

"Other contenders for the chief executive post will see Tsang as a main competitor," Sung said. "We can expect peace only for a month or two until around June when the election takes place. At that time, there will also be a lot of noise in the society." *AP*

WATER SUPPLY ADVISORY NO. 3
FOR WEST ZONE CUSTOMERS

Raw water supply from Angat Dam continues to be reduced

Maynilad Water Services Inc. urges all West Zone customers to conserve water in order to cope with the worsening shortage of raw water supply from Angat Dam brought about by the continued blockage of the Umiray Tunnel and the mild El Niño phenomenon we are experiencing.

As of March 4, 2005, the average output of the Maynilad Water La Mesa Treatment Plants has gone down from the normal 2,265 million liters a day (MLD) to a low of 1,750 MLD, a drastic reduction of 515 MLD.

27.9% of the entire West Zone concession, particularly the elevated portions, has been affected. These include the following areas:

1. **Quezon City**: Toro Hills, Project 8; San Francisco Del Monte; Commonwealth District; Roosevelt area; Brgy. Talipapa; Brgy. San Bartolome; Forest Hills Subd.; Brgy. Siena; Brgy. Sto. Domingo; Brgy. Lourdes; Brgy. Talayan; Brgy. Sangandaan; Veterans Village, Project 7
2. **Caloocan City**: Sta. Quiteria, Baesa, portion of Bagong Barrio, UE Subd., University Hills Subd., portion of East Grace Park, West Grace Park (DM Compound, PNR Compound, Heroes del 96), GSIS Hills Subd., and Barangays Llano, Kaybiga, Bagbaguin and Deparo
3. **Valenzuela City**: Gen. T. De Leon, Upper Marulas, Arkong Bato, Brgys. Ugong, Balangkas, Veinte Reales, and San Miguel Hts.
4. **Malabon**: Araneta Subd., Baong Lote, Upper Portion of Potrero, UE Subd., and Barangays Tugatog, Tinejeros, Santolan, Catmon, Tonsuya, Longos, Tanong, San Roque, Ibaba, Dampalit, San Agustin, Acacia, Panghulo, Santolan, Maysilo, Merville Dampalit, Concepcion, Baritan, Flores, and part of Barangays Muzon and Bayan Bayanan;
5. **Navotas**: Brgy. Sipac, Brgy. Tanza, Dagat-Dagatan Area, Northbay Blvd., San Rafael Village, Barangays Tangos and San Roque and portions of Barangays Daang Hari and Bankulasi
6. **Manila**: Sampaloc, Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Sta. Cruz District, portion of Binondo, Pandacan, South Harbor, Paco, Ermita, Malate, and Gagalangin and Tondo Foreshore, Tondo District
7. **Makati**: Barangays San Isidro, Palanan, Pio del Pilar, Bangkal and Magallanes Village
8. **Pasay City**
9. **Parañaque City**: San Antonio Valleys 10 and 11, Marcelo Green Village Phases 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8, Justina Subd., Vitalez Compound, UPS 2 and 5, Camilla Townhomes, elevated portions of Better Living (Annexes 16, 18, 29, 32, 22 and Section 3), Don Agido Bernabe Subd., Remanville Subd. and Brgy. Vitalez
10. **Las Piñas City**: Lozada St., St. Joseph Subdivision, Martinville, Pulang Lupa Dos, Dona Macaria, Pamplona, Manuyo Dos, Brgy. Aldana, Brgy. Ilaya, and Brgy. Zapote
11. **Cavite**: Palico, Imus; Bacoor (Brgy. Habay 1, Brgy. Aniban, Brgy. Salinas, Brgy. Dulong Bayan); and Kawit (Brgy. Binakayan)

To cope with this contingency, Maynilad has intensified leak repairs, disconnection of illegal connections, replacement of old pipes and facilities. It is also adjusting valves in order to maximize the distribution of water to affected areas. More mobile tankers are also being dispatched to attend to the needs of affected residents. Please call up the branch nearest you or Maynilad Hotline 1626 for the tankering schedule in your area. You may also text us at SMART 7001626 (keyword "OTHERS").

Maynilad Water is also aggressively pursuing its water recovery projects aimed at delivering the recovered water to underserved or unserved areas. These projects include the just-finished Tondo Foreshore F-1 Zone Pilot Project, the on-going Dagat-Dagatan Pipe Replacement Project in Caloocan City (and eventually Malabon and Navotas) and the Water Supply Improvement Project in Barangays Baclaran and Tambo in Parañaque City.

In view of this situation, we advise our customers to draw water from their pipelines at the times scheduled in your area and not to use booster pumps directly connected to our mainlines.

Our roving water tankers each have assigned destinations. Thus, we also advise our customers not to obstruct these mobile tankers to facilitate the speedy, efficient and equitable rationing of water to all affected areas. We are doing our best to accommodate everyone in view of the abnormal water supply situation so please be patient and considerate.

Please accept our apology for this unforeseen event which is beyond our control.

Salamat po sa inyong pang-unawa

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES INC.

Todo~Buhos and Serbisyo sa Pilipino!

For Inquiries: Please call our 24-Hour Hotline
☎ *1626*

Population bill fight …

From page A1

tion pictures."

Rep. Nereus Acosta (LP, Bukidnon) presented one such envelope at a press conference yesterday in the House, saying the material being circulated among committee members defined population management as "a comprehensive program limiting family size by inculcating even in young minds their sexual and reproductive rights."

According to Lagman, the illustrations not only "misrepresent that reproductive health and sexuality education aim to teach minors no more than coital positions" but also "debase sexuality education, as if teaching the Kama Sutra is the prurient agenda."

He aired the suspicion that "prolife groups" were behind the smear campaign.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and its allied organizations have aired vehement opposition to the passage of the bill.

Caught in crossfire

Rep. Janette Garin (Lakas, Iloilo) said that while men were exchanging volleys of words over the issue, women were caught in the crossfire.

"This is about mothers being allowed to choose a combination of natural and artificial methods. We respect the Catholic Church. I myself am a devout Catholic, but I'm appealing to the [priests] to join us in seeking protection for us and our children," she said.

Lagman strongly denied that sex education would promote promiscuity among the youth.

He said the sex education proposed under HB 3773 would cover such subjects as correct sexual values, rights and responsibilities; responsible parenthood; prohibition of abortion; family planning; prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases, and abstinence before marriage.

He added that the proposed subjects would be taught by "adequately trained teachers" starting in the fifth grade up to high school—the "age-appropriate" period.

Lagman believes that the Philippines' runaway population growth can be partly blamed on the fact that the youth are getting information on sex from "polluted sources."

"Parents do not teach their children because sex is taboo at home," he said. "Or, unfortunately, the parents know no better."

'The Lord's sign'

A Catholic bishop sees God's hand in the food poisoning that killed at least 26 children in Bohol the other day. (*See banner story.*)

Bishop Christian Noel of the Diocese of Talibon, Bohol, said the unfortunate occurrence might be a "sign" addressed to the government's family planning campaign.

The campaign includes the "Ligtas Buntis" program of the Department of Health.

"Maybe some of the [health] workers are trying to go beyond what they are expected by their conscience [to do]. So now the Lord is giving us the sign that if we continue to go against what the Church preaches, something like this will happen to us," Noel said in a radio interview.

But this did not mean that those who died were guilty, in one way or another, of violating the Church's teachings on family planning, he said, adding:

"No, this is [just] a sign, telling us that if we don't go within the framework of the moral law and His commandment, then something will come to us."

The bishop said the poisoning should remind people that they did not have to support "Ligtas Buntis."

"It is not pleasing to God," he said.

The Church has been attacking the P150-million reproductive health program, saying it was a mere smokescreen for the promotion of contraception and population control.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit is nevertheless pushing the program nationwide, stressing that it is meant only to ensure maternal and child health.

Open communication

Noel and the other Catholic bishop of Bohol also denied that priests there had been ordered to withhold communion from health workers involved in "Ligtas Buntis."

"We don't do that here," Noel said. "There is no need to do that here. We [have] open communication with our health workers. So we don't have to go into that kind of policy."

He said health workers in Bohol "still listen to their parish priest, and they don't compromise their consciences at present."

According to Bishop Leopoldo Tumulak, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, refusing communion to anyone is a very serious matter that requires a pastoral letter from the Church hierarchy.

Tumulak said in a radio interview that no less than his chancellor had told him there was no such order.

INQBOX Question of the Week

Should the media be barred from interviewing terrorist or rebel groups like the NPA, Abu Sayyaf and MNLF renegades?

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Bodies of 2 rescuers who died in Pasig found; family in distress

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE BODIES of two brothers, who drowned while trying to help passengers of a capsized boat were found yesterday morning, almost 36 hours after they disappeared in the murky waters of the Pasig River.

And this time, it's their family that is asking for help.

"Napakasakit ng nangyari para sa amin. Napakabigat pa ngayon ng kalagayan namin," Daisy Nicoyco, the victims' aunt, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

While the search for their bodies had ended, the family of Ralgy Serantes and his brother Richard have just begun looking for money to pay for their funeral and burial.

The victims' uncle Randy Nicoyco said the Coast Guard found Ralgy, 22, floating in the river near Barangay Olympia in Makati City about 6 a.m. yesterday.

Five hours later, patrolling barangay officials discovered the body of Richard, 29, near Purok 4, Barangay Pineda, Pasig City.

The two brothers jumped into the river at about 7:30 p.m. Tuesday after hearing screams from the passengers of a boat that had just overturned. They thought a relative was in the boat.

All 12 passengers and crew of the boat were saved. But the two brothers disappeared in the water.

Their sister Shirley, 26, was not surprised when she learned that her brothers tried to rescue the passengers.

"Talagang mabait sila at matulungin," she said.

Ralgy had been working as an air-condition technician. Richard was a taxi driver. He had been living in the shanty near the river for three months.

The relatives were grateful to the Coast Guard, who patiently searched the area for the brothers.

Relatives of the pair are hoping the city government would help them financially.

"Hindi nila inisip ang sariling buhay nila. Gusto lang nilang makatulong. Sana ngayon matulungan din sila," Daisy said.

The family is planning to hold the wake in front of their house in Purok 2, Barangay Pineda.

Studes will miss street food vendors with ban

By Alcuin Papa

THE DEPARTMENT of Education yesterday banned all ambulant vendors from selling food from areas close to schools nationwide following the death of 26 pupils from food poisoning in Mabini, Bohol the other day.

Education Undersecretary Jose Luis Martin Gascon said the vendors were not allowed to sell food to students because there were no guarantees that the food was safe.

"We encourage school officials to shoo the vendors away. But we have no jurisdiction outside the schools. That is why we are coordinating with local governments on this matter," Gascon said.

He said the local governments and law-enforcement authorities would determine if any arrest was necessary and they would set the school perimeter where vendors are not allowed. If the vendors refuse to leave the premises, they would be told to "keep their distance."

Gascon also urged local governments to pass the necessary ordinances to ensure that the food being sold to students is safe.

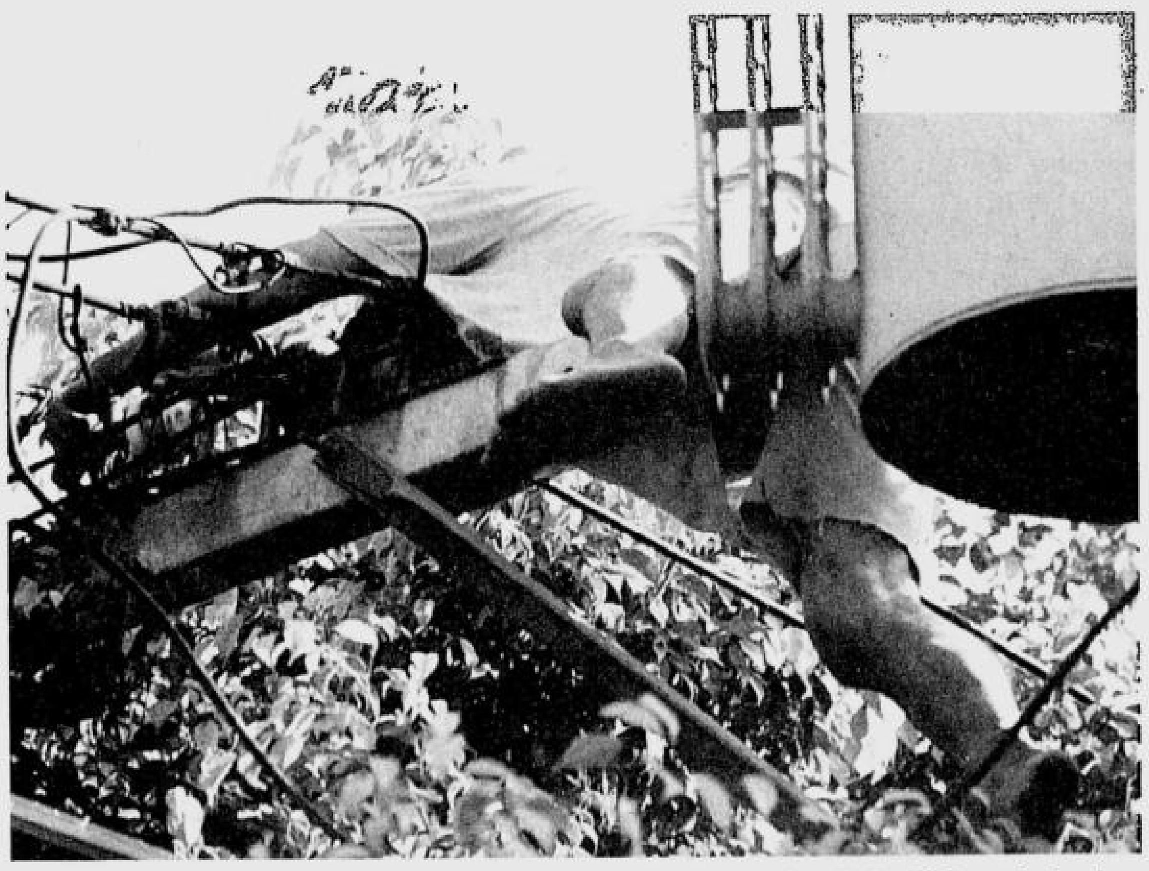
"All public and private schools should make sure standards in the preparation of food for students' consumption are in place and followed," Gascon said.

In Manila, Adil Khan, head of the city Hawkers' Management Office, said they make the rounds of school areas to inspect the vendors' goods and utensils on a regular basis. But Manila Mayor Lito Atienza said it would not be easy to prevent students from buying street food.

"Food sold on the sidewalk is a lot cheaper. Besides, we cannot just get rid of the vendors. They've been there for the longest time. Vending is their only means of surviving," the mayor said.

"But I would be expecting our inspectors to be doing their job of monitoring the vendors' wares to avoid food poisoning," Atienza said. *With Tina G. Santos*

Carless days ahead for Marikina



THE BODY of an unidentified man hangs on live wire of an electric post along Pedro Gil Street in Sta. Ana, Manila. It is not known what the man, who appears to have been electrocuted, was doing there. ERIC ARAZAS

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

WANT TO help lessen pollution, ease traffic and save energy?

Don't use your car today.

Or better yet, offer to be a volunteer for the Department of Energy's Carless Day Program.

The program, which was launched in Marikina City yesterday morning, is part of the government's efforts to attain energy self-sufficiency through conservation, Energy assistant secretary Francisco Benito told the INQUIRER.

Marikina was chosen for the launch "because it is a clean city," Benito said. At least 70 car owners in the city have pledged to join the program which will also be brought to other cities and municipalities all over the country.

Volunteers are required to choose a day in the week when they will not use their car.

This will not only mean savings in fuel expenses but will also ease up traffic and environment-friendly, Benito said.

Interested volunteers can visit the Energy department website (www.doe.gov.ph) for details.

Participants will later get kits and yellow car stickers indicating the carless day, to be pasted on windshields.

The department will only rely on the volunteer's sincerity to find out if he sticks to the rules.

The sticker on the windshield can also help pressure the volunteer to follow his pledge, Benito said.

In exchange, the department hopes to get discounts from the Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit, as well as from pay parking lot operators, for carless program volunteers.

Benito said they would also ask big companies to provide shuttle services for employees who would participate in the program.

Apart from the Carless Day Program, the department is also advocating the use of indigenous and alternative sources of energy.

By starting several programs promoting energy conservation, the department aims to save 23 million barrels of fuel every year.

Electric fans lead causes of fire

By Jocelyn R. Uy

MAINTAIN old electric fans. Better yet don't subject them to abuse or overuse.

A major cause of blazes at home is the overheating of electrical equipment, specially electric fans which have been found to have triggered 80 percent of electrical fires, said Parañaque fire marshal Teodorico Gatchalian after fire hit a house in the city early morning yesterday.

"Electric fans are common in Philippine households because we live in a tropical country," Gatchalian told the INQUIRER.

But these fans, especially those worn out by time, need to be maintained, he said.

"When they notice that the fan doesn't work efficiently anymore even when they turn it to its highest power, they should have it checked. Or if they have the money, buy a new one," he said.

He explained that a defective fan is likely to overheat, thus starting a fire.

The use of electric fans are expected to rise with the start of summer.

Fire officials have previously raised caution for owners not to leave these fans on for long periods of time.

Parañaque blaze

Early yesterday morning, Parañaque firefighters responded to a blaze that broke out in a two-story house on Block 7, Lot 4, Phase II San Nicolas Street, Gatchalian Subdivision in Barangay San Dionisio.

Arson investigators said the incident could have been triggered by an overheated electric fan.

The electric fan was reportedly left running unattended for three hours before the fire started at 1:44 a.m., said Gatchalian.

A couple named Marvin and Michelle Reyes owned the house.

"The couple said their nephew left the house at around 10 in the evening," he added.

Gatchalian identified the nephew as Roden Acantilado, 18.

The couple told fire investigators the unattended fan no longer had a body and the fan's head was just placed on a computer chair.

The fire, the first in Parañaque City this fire prevention month, destroyed three-fourths of the house.

It reached the third alarm and was put out at 2:53 a.m.

Arson investigators placed damages at P1 million.

The blaze was actually the third incident in Parañaque this month, however, the two other incidents reported in Baclaran and at Honda Philippines were immediately put out and were considered as minor.

Apart from electric wires, another major source of fires are old or leaky pipes or valves of liquefied petroleum gas.

Syndicate selling fake stocks busted

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) busted a Makati City-based syndicate that sold stocks and other securities of companies that did not exist to foreign investors.

The raid was conducted on Monday afternoon at 501 Pearl Bank Centre, Valero St., Salcedo Village, after a Makati Regional Trial Court judge issued a search warrant for a pending case against Malcolm Lloyd, Alexander Bracewell, Maureen Santiago, David Forte, and David Elephant who allegedly violated the Securities Regulation Code.

Foreigners were allegedly sold shares of stocks by the accused. The suspects, who were not present during the raid, had acted as "brokers and dealers" without any authority from the Securities and Exchange Commission, said NBI Supervisor Agent Gregorio Zuniga Jr.

Arrested were general administrator Nerissa Torcita, human resource officer Florinda Monvado, administrative officer Rommel Arboleda, administrative assistant Ruth Anne Sardenia, data encoder Marinel Santos, team leaders Leonardo Mallari and Ellen Felicierta, and messengers Jesus Daya and Richard Peralta.

Seized during the raid were 90 telephones, 11 computers, 10 bags of assorted documents, three computer printers, a fax machine, a photocopying machine, and a laptop. The suspects allegedly earned around P300 million monthly, using unregistered brokers who promised high returns on investments.

Police want terrorist assets put in freezer

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE want more power in going after the assets of groups or organizations suspected of funding terrorists.

An official said the police would push for the freezing for a limited time of assets of organizations or persons suspected of funding terrorism.

The Philippine's current anti-money laundering law says that if authorities find strong evidence, it could ask the courts to freeze a suspect bank account for 15 days.

Proposed antiterror provision

"This would be a key provision of the antiterror bill," said the official who is familiar with the police's inputs in the proposed antiterror measures now being deliberated at the committee level in Congress.

"It is the money that's crucial. You cut the flow of money, (then) terrorists cannot act," she said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The police draft said that when a "reasonable ground to suspect exists that any monetary instrument or property is in any way related to terrorism and other violation, the Anti-Money Laundering Council may issue a freeze order effective immediately... for a period of 90 days."

Taguig village leader killed by gunman

By Jocelyn R. Uy

A HOMEOWNERS association president was gunned down yesterday morning in Taguig City, police said.

Herbert Gorobao, 40, president of Freedom Village II Homeowners' Association in Taguig, was supervising his men in cleaning a creek at 9 a.m. when the unidentified assailant shot him several times, police said.

He sustained a gunshot wound in the head and several others in different parts of his body, SPO2 Rodnie Plana told the INQUIRER.

The victim, who was an ex-Marine, died on the spot.

Recovered from the crime scene were two empty shells and two live ammunition.

Police have yet to determine the motive in the killing but the victim's wife, Freza Larida, alleged that some members of their association harbored ill feelings toward her husband.

Hours earlier, Araceli Tabangcora, a 46-year-old street sweeper, was doing her chore along Maharlika Road, Upper Bicutan, when a bomb exploded at 4:05 a.m., injuring her and barangay *tanod* Domingo Flores, police said yesterday.

Investigation showed that the explosive device was either a pillbox or a Molotov cocktail.

Flores told police investigators that the bomb was thrown by one of two suspects. One wore a blue and white bonnet while the other had a bull cap on.

The device landed near a parked jeep and exploded.

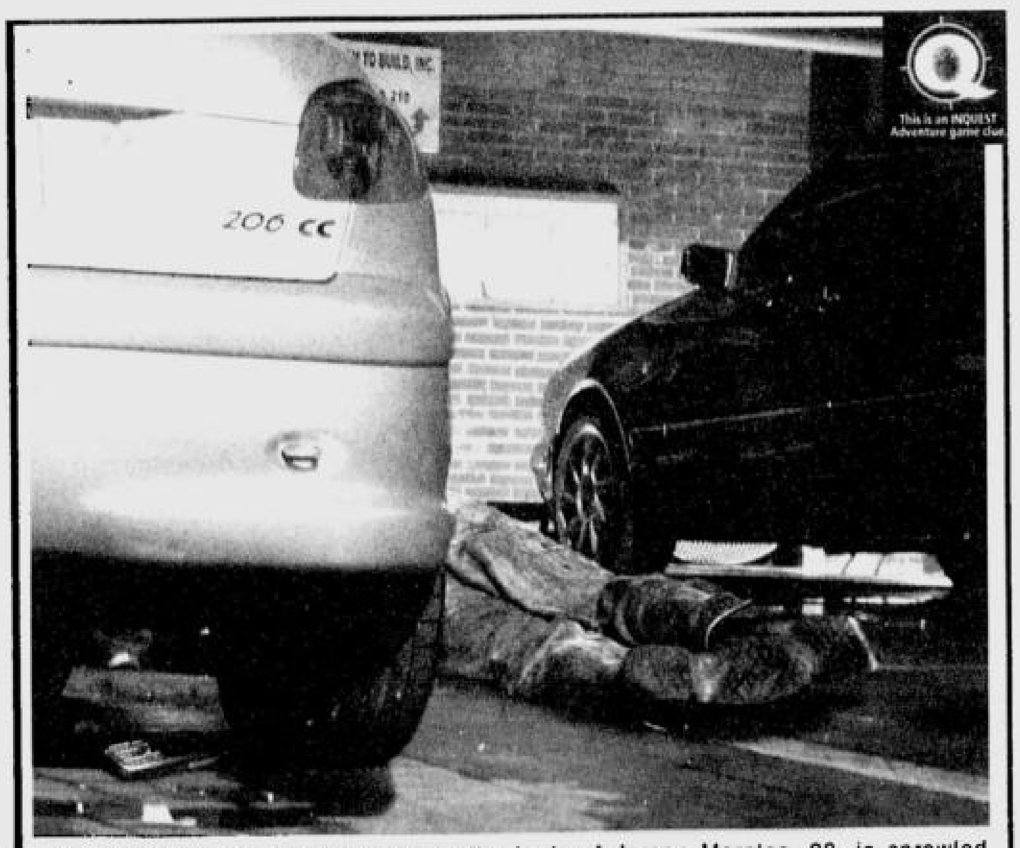
However, police are facing a blank wall, said Insp. Ronaldo Pamor, chief of the police Criminal Investigation Division in Taguig.

"We cannot say that it's an act of terrorism, we are still yet to determine the motive," Pamor said.

But police said a land dispute could be behind the bombing as far as Tabangcora was concerned.

On the other hand, if Flores was the target, the attack could have been perpetrated by one of his enemies.

Tabangcora and Flores reportedly suffered minor injuries.



BAR HABITUE FATALLY SHOT. The body of Jerson Morales, 28, is sprawled between two cars in the parking lot of the Purple Pear Bar in Makati City. Morales, a regular visitor of the bar was shot dead early Saturday morning.

For previous chapters, log on to www.inquest.com.

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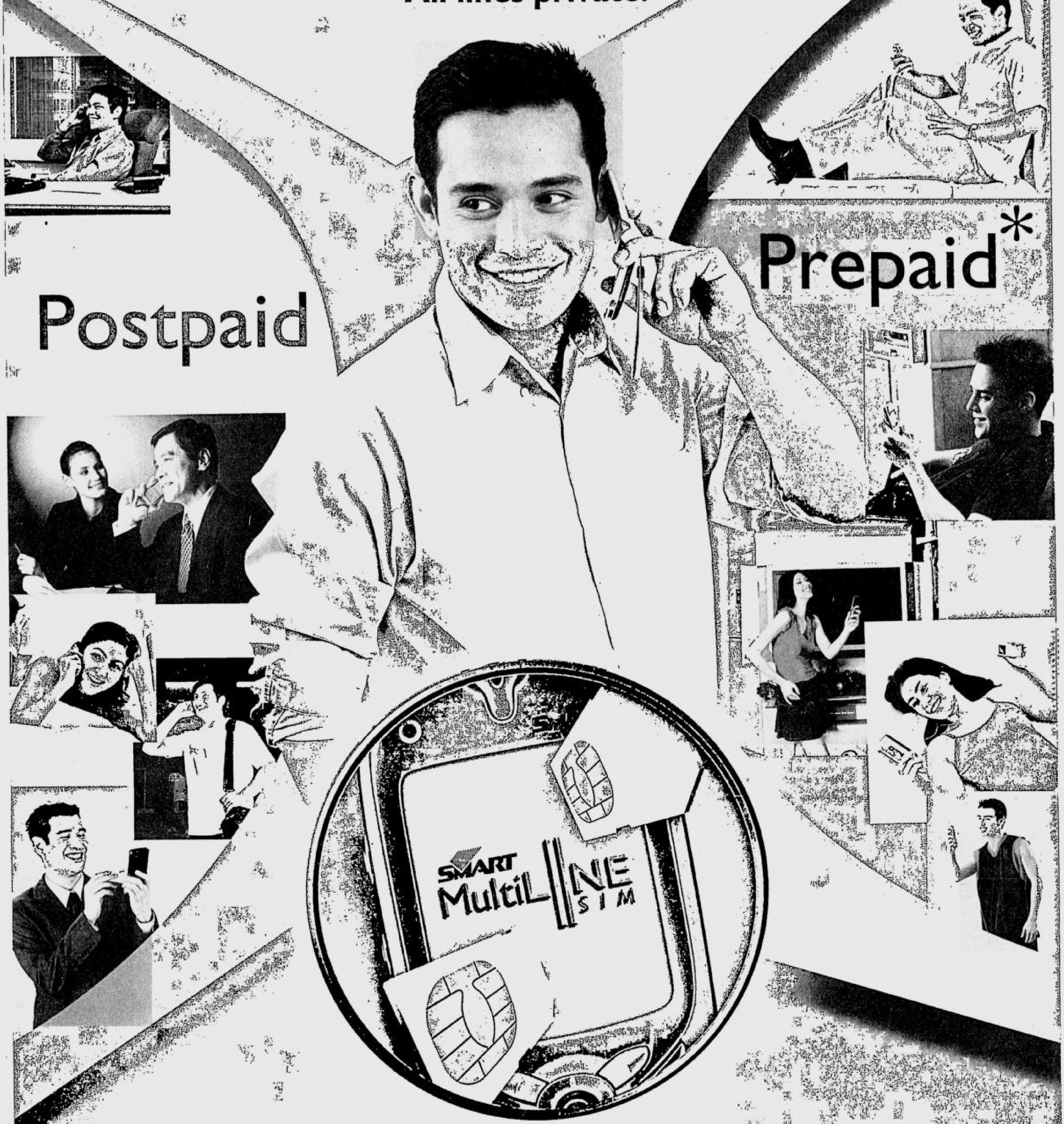

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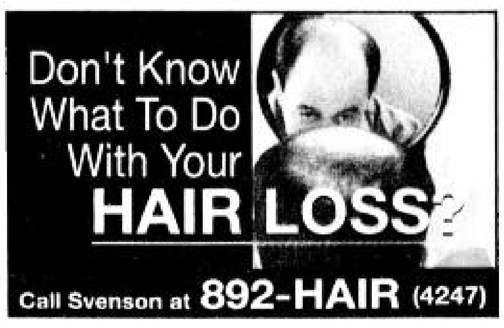
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Pacquiao's 'Manila Ice' weapon is a right hook

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—A day after deceiving the Mexican media, trainer Freddie Roach yesterday decided to uncover the secret weapon which Manny Pacquiao hopes to unleash in his showdown against Mexico's Erik Morales.

A right hook, "Manila Ice" is a right hook, Freddie Roach announced.

Mexican media men, who were stunned to witness Pacquiao in a sluggish sparring where he repeatedly got tagged with cheap shots to the head Wednesday, were not around to hear Roach.

The announcement was made exclusively to the INQUIRER.

But whether or not Roach would be applying for a patent—whether the weapon would sell and stick like Rope-a-dope, Russian Tank, or Bolo Punch—is entirely left to Pacquiao.

If Pacquiao succeeds in clipping Morales cold in their monumental March 19 fight, then Manila Ice could gain fame and registry in prizefight annals.

Pacquiao, now 129 pounds, did not spar yesterday.

Instead, the Filipino boxing hero did routine gym work at the Wild Card Gym where, away from the prying eyes of reporters, he pounded the mitts to perfect the erstwhile secret killer punch.

The so-called secret weapon was kept under wraps when Pacquiao sparred and worked out before an eager horde of Mexican media men on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Visibly gone in that forgettable session against two so-so sparmates was the sharpness which the Mexican reporters had come to witness.

Roach had offered an explanation for the colorless sparring. He said Pacquiao had decided to "play with those guys."

Buboy Fernandez, Pacquiao's trusted Filipino handler, had a more candid excuse. He said that Pacquiao, although already at peak form, was not supposed to display his best before Mexican media.

In fact, Roach had to disallow cameras during a previous session to prevent reporters from getting a sneak view of Pacquiao's Manila Ice.

The new weapon, a lethal complement to the ax-like left blow, was first tried in Pacquiao's fifth-round stoppage of Thai Fahsan 3K Battery in Taguig, a bout that served as tune-up for the much-awaited duel in Las Vegas.

The Taguig launch was not a complete success because Fahsan, while frantically avoiding Pacquiao's right hook, got tagged with a slicing left uppercut that sent him up then flat cold on the floor.

A "SLUGGISH" Manny Pacquiao (left) prepares to attack his sparmate in front of a curious bunch of Mexican reporters and fans Wednesday. ED GALVEZ, CONTRIBUTOR

Roach said Pacquiao will complete 150 rounds of sparring for the Morales fight.

Pacquiao leaves for the Las Vegas fight night on Monday.

Meanwhile, support for Pacquiao here continued to swell, capped this week by a Sunday service at the Christ the King Church off Sunset Boulevard, near the fighter's new quarters, where he got special blessings from the parish priest.

Winchell Campos reported that a noted dentist also offered to design a special mouthpiece for Pacquiao's use on March 19.

Oddsmakers pick Pacquiao to win

LAS VEGAS oddsmakers continue to put their money on Ring Magazine featherweight king Manny Pacquiao in his titanic March 19 showdown with Mexican ring icon Erik Morales.

A day after he welcomed a group of media men, mostly Mexicans, into his training lairs at the Wild Card Gym, Pacquiao remained as a slight favorite to prevail, with the bookies at MGM Grand giving the Filipino a 6-to-5 odds.

Pacquiao is also a minus-125 favorite, while Morales is plus-105, which means that a 100-dollar bet on Morales will net $105 if the Mexican wins. Conversely, if Pacquiao comes out triumphant, a $125 bet on him will win only $100.

The latest Toprank.com poll has 60 per cent of the respondents picking Pacquiao to prevail. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

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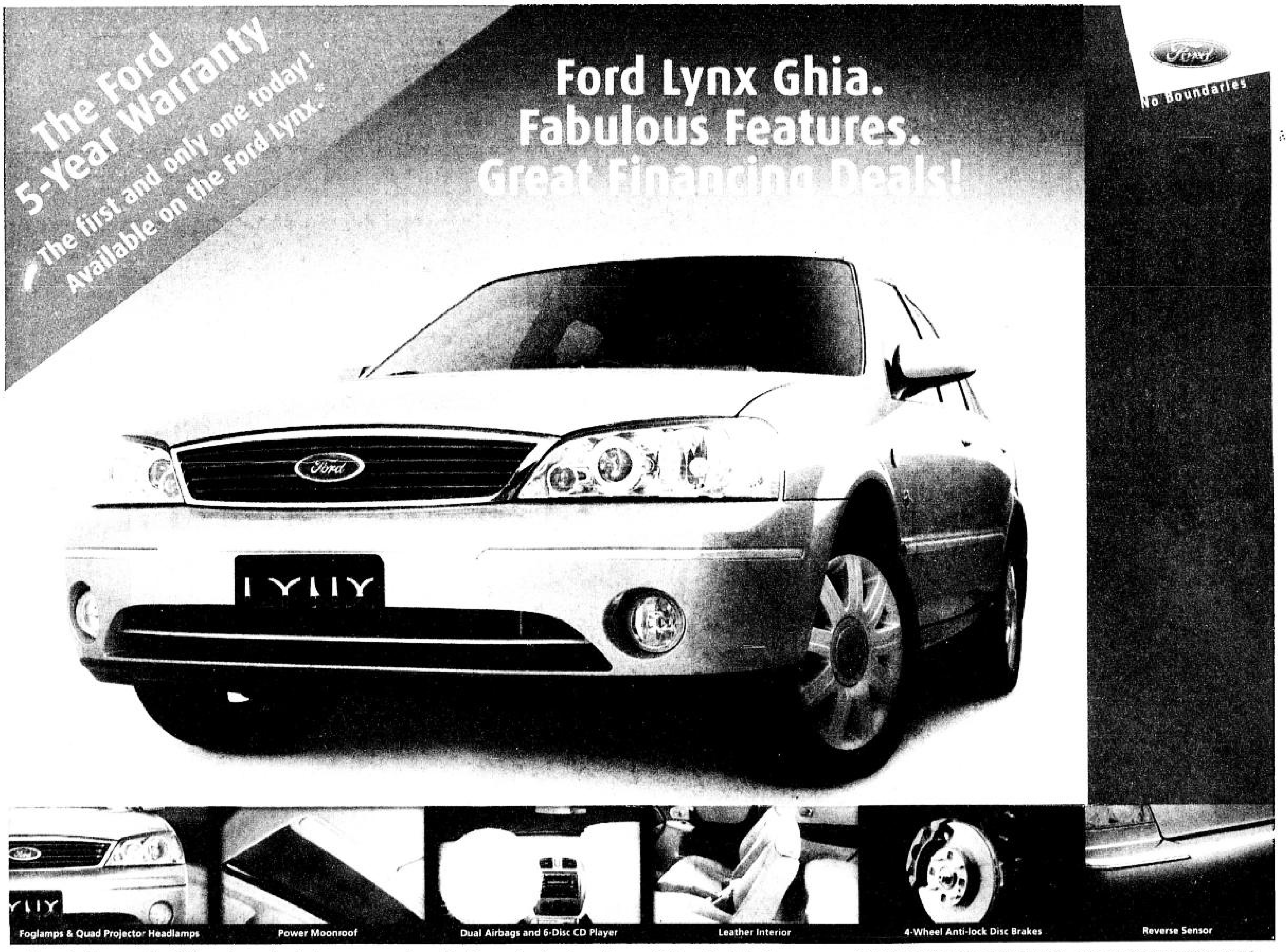
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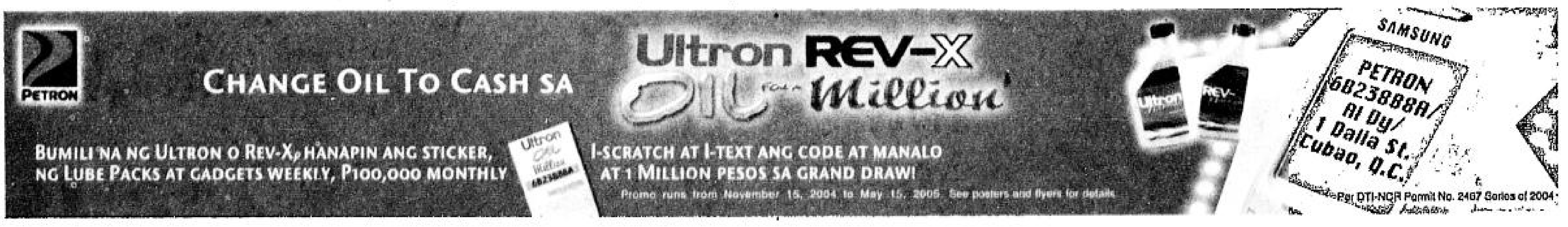
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Juvic key to Razon's fund support

PAGUNSAN: Turning pro not cast in stone.

By Musong R. Castillo

JUVIC Pagunsan's decision to turn professional is not cast in stone, after all.

The all-out support by the godfather program for golf, initiated by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, is not hard and fast, either.

These developed yesterday as Pagunsan's camp and a spokesperson for port services magnate Enrique Razon, golf's godfather for the Southeast Asian Games, set certain conditions for their continued involvement in the National team.

"Juvic will only play for the Philippines if he plays under Mr. (Ricky) Razon," said Bambi Rivilla, Pagunsan's benefactor and adviser yesterday. "This means that we will report only to Mr. Razon and not to the NGAP (National Golf Association of the Philippines)."

RAZON

GOPEZ

NGAP president Benny Gopez said the ruling body for golf will welcome Pagunsan if the country's amateur ace decides to change his mind.

But Luigi Tabuena, Razon's cousin and point man for the golf program for the Manila SEAG later this year, told the INQUIRER that Razon "will rethink his support to the team if it is not the strongest possible (team) for the SEA Games."

"With Juvic out, Mr. Razon feels that we don't have the best team possible, and his promise of support is only for the best team assembled," Tabuena said in a telephone interview.

"The strongest team means that Juvic is in it."

Tabuena bared that the NGAP had asked for a P15 million budget to fund the training and foreign exposure of the national pool preparing for the SEAG.

Citing duty to flag and country, Rivilla is encouraging Pagunsan to delay turning professional until after the SEA Games, but said he fears his ward may be discriminated against after the player unloaded a litany of complaints against the NGAP when he annnounced his plans to turn pro on Monday.

Rivilla said Pagunsan will play in all tune-up tournaments and attend training camp leading to the SEA Games only if Razon will have a direct hand in running the affairs of the national team.

"He (Razon) obviously knows how to handle people well, with his many employees and all," said Rivilla.

At the same time, the outspoken Gopez said he's wondering why Pagunsan, for all his gripes against the NGAP, is still playing in the DHL Canlubang Open, a tournament sanctioned by the NGAP.

"*Siniraan niya ang* (He's griping against the) NGAP, *tapos naglalaro siya sa* (but he's playing in an) NGAP event," Gopez said. "I can't understand it. I know he is being used. I am confused with his actuations."

Gopez also said the national team in the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico was supplied with its own service van and that the "cold" food the team ate in the morning had been ordered by the players themselves the night before.

Told that Razon was ready to rethink its financial support to the NGAP if Pagunsan turns pro, Gopez said: "*Wala akong magagawa* (I can't do anything). I'm doing this for the country, not for anything else. It's up to them really."

Shocked

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I AM not surprised that many were shocked with Juvic Pagunsan suddenly speaking ill of the National Golf Association of the Philippines. They just couldn't believe Juvic, generally known as a very quiet, reserved person, capable of doing such a thing. To them, Juvic badmouthing the NGAP was like seeing Miriam Defensor-Santiago praising FVR to high heavens.

Someone with an axe to grind against the NGAP must have coaxed Juvic to do that?

Maybe.

But then again, Juvic, for all that obvious façade of serenity in him, is not the type who could be just pushed around by anyone with ulterior motives to do this or that. I've known Juvic all these years as a man of his own.

Never a robot.

Never a puppet.

As Al Pacino of the film, "Scent of A Woman," would blurt out each time he got upbeat or something, "U-wah!"

I mean, Juvic had been a member of the Philippine Team for many years now, in the process winning several honors abroad including a SEA Games gold medal and, most recently, a coveted champion's trophy in the Thailand Amateur Open last year. Thus, for him to suddenly malign the NGAP a couple of days ago would seem unthinkable.

And many are asking: Why did Juvic air his gripes against the NGAP only now, five months after the conclusion of the Puerto Rico World Team Championships? If he had really been shabbily treated as he said he was during his stint in Puerto Rico, why did he not immediately expose it the minute he arrived in Manila last November?

Being the country's top amateur golfer for so long now, many might have given it a second thought had he done it no sooner than when he stepped again on Filipino soil—maybe even making them accept Juvic's plaints hook, line and sinker.

Juvic doing it only now, right on the heels of a two-stroke penalty for a rules infraction that cost his team Canlubang a 2-point loss to Southwoods in the Bacolod PAL Interclub, why I can't blame some people branding Juvic's motives as suspect.

Still, I give Juvic the benefit of the doubt.

And, yes, only time will tell if he, indeed, did his tirades against the NGAP on his own. Or, that somebody too mighty for him to resist might have coaxed him, twisted his arm even, to do it.

Meanwhile, here's still wishing the 26-year-old Juvic, whom I find an extremely fine man the very first day I was introduced to him some years back, all the best in his recently announced new career as a professional.

Some people have asked me: If Juvic has really turned professional, why is he still playing in the amateur DHL-NGAP Championship, which ends today in Canlubang? Are we watching a charade here?

No, it's maybe because he has yet to secure a license as a professional golfer.

U-wah!

***

It's worth noting that Southwoods won the 58th PAL Interclub with only eight players in its lineup—short by two as the ideal required number of players is 10. And take this: Southwoods had the youngest lineup ever in the 74-field competition—Artemio Murakami is 21, Michael Bibat 20, Tonlits Asistio 15, Miko Alejandro 16, Lawrence Negrido 17, Gene Bondoc 21, Miko Yee 15 and Hanson So Jr. 26.

***

Here's a glass to The Master's Academy, an institution which inculcates biblical methods and values in its academic programs, for successfully conducting its fourth annual golf tournament yesterday at the fabled Riviera's Couples in Silang, Cavite.

The Master's Academy, one of only two academic institutions in the country recognized and accredited by the Department of Education for its home school program, thanks the following for their support: Toyota Motor Phils, Toyota Cubao, Toyota Davao, First Generation Holdings, Fila, SC Kymco Phils, Asiatic Development, Petron Corp., Metrobank, BASF Coatings, Bel Mondo Italia, Global Lighting, Equitable Bank, 1st Metro Trade, Rural Bank of Makati, Orix Metro Leasing & Finance, Intertrade Credit Corp, Bespak, Don Builders, Bellevue Hotel, Sta. Clara International, Cosmos Bottling, Pisanti, Hanford, Christ Commission Fellowship and Manila New Life Church.

***

FASTBREAK. The 2nd Fila Summer Polo Cup on March 13 kicks off the polo season at the Manila Polo Club inside Forbes Park, Makati City. Among those seeing action are Jose Constantino, Jimboy Dulay, Rosanna Yulo and Ace Suzuki in the first team; and Antonio Veloso, Jose Manuel Montilla, Jun Eusebio and Jerome Hernandez in the second team. Other players are Anthony Filamor, Fed Borromeo, Edwin Arce, Fred Borromeo, Iñigo Zobel, Vince Bitong, Jay De Jesus, Santiago Elizalde, Bobby Aguirre, Anthony Garcia, Dino Santos and Dondi Santos.

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Don't call him Mexican Assassin, please

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—Mexican Assassin? No, I don't like you to call me bad names, you know. Right, I beat Barrera, but I was just lucky that time. Marquez, yes, I believe I won it. But that's finished already. I just start again. I'm happy. Filipino people always support me. I love to make friends. I don't care who's my opponent. All people are the same.

Make room for Manny Pacquiao, the diplomat.

That opening paragraph was culled from a doorstep statement made by Pacquiao when he was mobbed and stalled by Mexican media men on his way up to the Wild Card Gym on Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila.)

* * *

Here's the rest of the interview with Mexican media:

Filipinos, do you give away something to them, like money to the poor people?

Yeah, every Christmas and if there's somebody in need.

Erik Morales said you cannot move, you just stand still.

That's his opinion. I'm here to do my best. I want to give a good fight and make people, especially the audience, happy.

You've been training for nearly three months, isn't that too much, you could suffer from burnout.

I don't think so. I have a very good coach and he knows if I'm overworked or not.

Won't moving up to 130 pounds be a problem?

Not really, because I also had to reduce when I fought Marquez for the featherweight title.

How much do you weigh when you're not in training?

Not much, 138 to 140 pounds.

What do you do when you're not working for a fight?

I stay with my family. I play basketball. I play pool. I love people.

What else?

I go to my farm.

You have a farm?

Yes, in General Santos, my hometown.

What do you have there, horses?

No fighting cocks, maybe 500 in all.

You go to cockfights?

Yes, on Sunday, after church, there are a lot people in the cockfight. I enjoy watching my cocks. I love people.

Why don't you want to be called Mexican Assassin?

Mexicans are not my enemies. Maybe there are just too many Mexican boxers. But everybody outside the ring, they are all my friends.

2 eagles lift Saragoza past Pagunsan by 1

CANLUBANG—Boyet Saragoza put on an amazing display of shotmaking, gunning down two eagles for a five-under-par 67 that swept him past fancied teammate Juvic Pagunsan in the third round of the 10th DHL-WWWExpress National Amateur Golf Championships here yesterday.

Two strokes behind Pagunsan at the start of the round, Saragoza wrested the lead early with a birdie-eagle start that kicked off his 35-32 round for a 54-hole aggregate of 208 at Cangolf's North course.

Pagunsan failed to sustain his second-day brilliance of nine birdies and a 66 as he settled for a 70 on three birdies against a bogey and slid to second place at 209.

But the World Amateurs veteran, who recently announced plans of joining the pro ranks soon, remains the favorite for the crown in the event sponsored by DHL World Express and WWWExpress.

"Juvic is still the man to beat," said Saragoza, adding he expects Pagunsan's final round charge in a bid to win the title as a valedictory to his checkered amateur career.

Tonton Asistio, the youthful Southwoods bet, matched par 72 and stood third at 212, three strokes ahead of teammate and former national champion Artemio Murakami, who shot a 71.

Saragoza eagled the par-5 No. 2 when he holed his third shot out of the bunker and duplicated the feat on No. 14 with an eight-foot putt.

He gunned down birdies on Nos. 5, 13 and 18 and could have pulled farther away from Pagunsan if not for a double bogey on No. 3 caused by an errant drive.

JR Tanpinco, who shared the first-round lead with Saragoza, Asistio and Michael Bibat, shot a 71 for a share of fifth with Choi Ming-gyu, who fired a 70, at 217 while Gene Bondoc and Marvin Dumandan were in joint seventh at 218 after identical 72s.

Defending champion Jun Bernis closed out with a double bogey and a forgettable 75 as he virtually kissed his title-retention bid goodbye with a 219, 11 strokes off Saragoza.

While a two-player battle loomed in the men's championship, the fight for the ladies crown became a cinch for fancied Jayvie Agojo, who floundered with a six-over 78 but was lucky enough to remain at the helm when Korean Lee Seo-jae was disqualified for signing a wrong scorecard.

CJH Manor shows way in Corporate Cup golf

BAGUIO—Camp John Hay Manor aggregated 142 points for a one-point lead in Group I after Wednesday's opening round of the 17th Philippine Corporate Cup golf championship at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Larry Tojino and Thirdy Escaño each scored 49 points, while Monet Garcia rounded out scoring for the Manor golfers with a 44 as they edged out three teams for the lead in the centerpiece division of the tourney presented by Smart Gold.

City of Baguio, Camp John Hay Golf Club and Camp John Hay Dev't. Corp. stood just a stroke behind Camp John Hay Manor after scoring similar 141s.

Shean Bedi led scoring for CJHDC with 51 points, Gen. Nelson Eslao stood at the helm of CJHGC with 49, while Romy Tio and Fred Puckett both tallied 50s for City of Baguio.

Fil. Print Corp. and Camp John Hay Leisure shared the lead in Group II, Sun Pack Container and Packaging held the solo lead in Group III, Brewyard was far ahead in Group IV and Pasga was far ahead in seniors play.

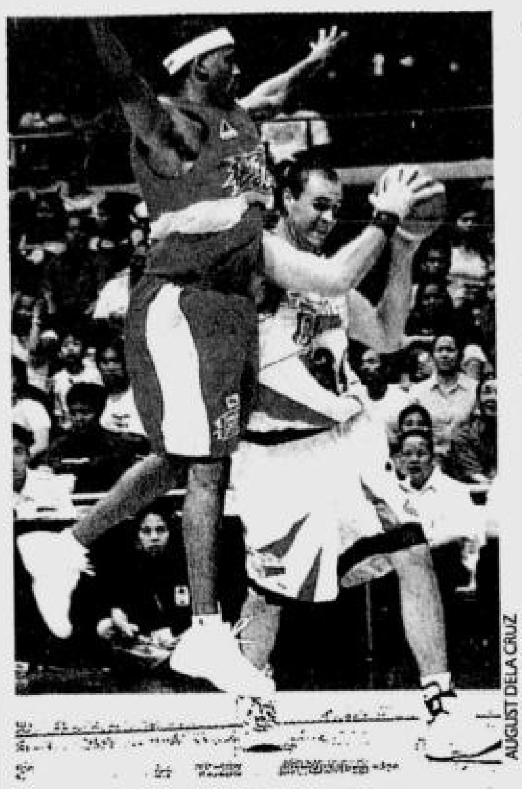
Film Print, behind the 50 of Bob Patterson, and Camp John Hay Leisure, led by Rommel Gomez (47), aggregated 129 for a three-point lead over CMSI. Era Gas Corp was at 122.

Sun Pack, starring Hsieh Lanfen and Glenda da Rosa, posted 121 to lead LNP II Foundation by three. Hampaslupa was running third with 114.

The battle for the Group IV plum was also tight with Brewyard, led by the 45 of Joy Sevilla and 39 of Sonia Bruce, holding on to a slim three-point margin over Dragon Horse Travel and Tours, 119-116. Kafagway, banking on Lilibeth Ratcliffe's 44, was third at 114.

Pasga was poised for a runaway win in seniors action as it zoomed ahead by 18 points over Cebu Infinity and Greenhills with 132 behind Andy Co's 46, Jun Belicena's 45 and Pablo Soon's 41.

Freddie Masigan and William Lim paced Cebu with their 39s, while Greenhills got 42 from Ken Kashiwahara.



AUGUST DELA CRUZ

JA JA Richards of Coke harasses Cris Burgess of SMB during their game Wednesday.

Barako, Hotdogs shoot for No. 2

RED Bull and Purefoods, which unveiled quality imports last week, shoot for a second straight win and a share of the early Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Cup lead when they battle separate foes today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Barakos go into their 4:45 p.m. game against FedEx hoping to get the same fiery performance from Johnson Dalron, who helped tremendously in their 93-86 humiliation of back-to-back champion Barangay Ginebra..

The Tender Juicy Hotdogs, on the other hand, are now having second thoughts of discarding Antonio Smith in favor of 7-foot-4 Priest Lauderdale after Smith scored 22 points and pulled down 23 rebounds over the Express.

Purefoods collides with Shell at 7:35 p.m.

Shell will be led by the prolific Wesley Wilson, who scored 39 points and grabbed 17 rebounds in an 88-97 loss to Talk 'N Text in the league's first ever official game overseas Sunday in Jakarta.

Meanwhile, the Express fortified their backcourt by acquiring Gary David in a three-team trade.

David will play for the Express starting today after the Tigers released him along with first-round draft rights next year.

June Navarro

STANDINGS	W	L
SMB	2	0
Talk N Text	1	0
Red Bull	1	0
Purefoods	1	0
SLR	1	1
Coca-Cola	1	1
FedEx	0	1
Ginebra	0	1
Shell	0	1
Alaska	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull Barako vs FedEx
7:35 p.m.—Shell vs Purefoods

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march 1 to 31

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0801, Series of 2005

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Suns shade starless Spurs; Nets prevail

PHOENIX, Arizona—Amare Stoudemire scored 44 points to spark Phoenix past injury-weakened San Antonio, 107-101, here Wednesday in a showdown of the National Basketball Association's top clubs.

The result left each club 47-14, sharing the NBA's best record entering the final six weeks of the regular season.

The Suns have won four games in a row and ended a five-game win streak by the Spurs, who were missing stars Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili.

Shawn Marion had 18 points and 17 rebounds and Steve Nash added 11 and 15 assists for the Suns, who had lost their past eight meetings with the Spurs, dating to the first round of the 2003 playoffs.

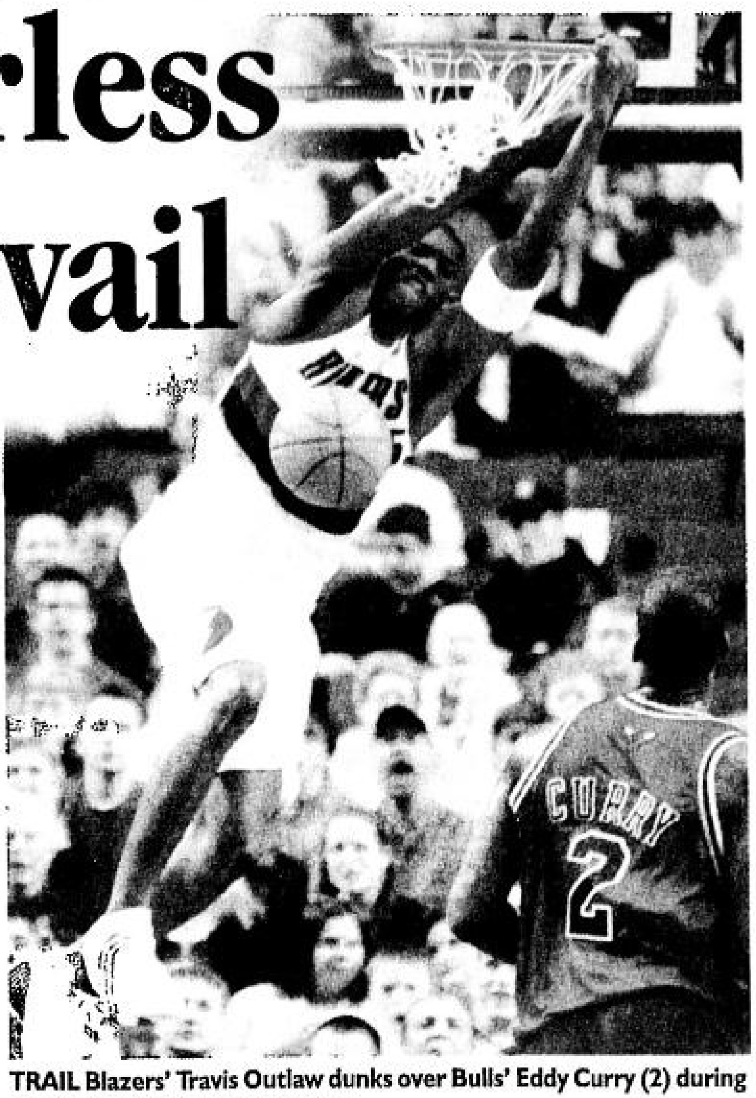
But the Spurs were diminished without All-Star center Duncan, a two-time Most Valuable Player, and Argentina star guard Ginobili.

Duncan was sidelined by a sprained ankle that limited him to 30 minutes in a victory over New Jersey one night earlier.

Ginobili, who scored a career-high 48 points in an overtime win at Phoenix on January 21, was sidelined with a groin injury.

COMPLETE RESULTS: Boston 95, Atlanta 91; Toronto 106, Orlando 96; New Jersey 86, New Orleans 85 (ot); Detroit 92, Golden State 88; Phoenix 107, San Antonio 101; Chicago 97, Portland 84.

AFP



TRAIL Blazers' Travis Outlaw dunks over Bulls' Eddy Curry (2) during the first half in Portland, Oregon. AP

Donguines leads La Union tilt

SAN FERNANDO CITY, La Union—Grandmaster-candidate Fernie Donguines considered himself lucky twice over in keeping the lead of the fourth La Union chess championship at the Diego Silang Hall of the La Union provincial capitol here.

After surviving a losing position against National Master and lawyer Sammy Estimo in the fourth round Wednesday night, he extracted the full point against erstwhile co-leader International Master Jayson Gonzales in the fifth round yesterday.

NM Marlon Bernardino

C. Lhuillier backs RP 5

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CEBUANA Lhuillier will remain the main backer of the RP five to the Southeast Asian Games and the Asian Games next year.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim announced this yesterday to quell speculations that the pawnshop chain is re-thinking its support for the national team tasked to retain the SEAG crown starting in November.

This, despite the BAP's choice of Boyzie Zamar over Dong Vergeire as head coach of the Filipino cagers who are gunning for their eight straight crown in the biennial meet.

Vergeire, closely identified with Cebuana Lhuillier as head of the coaching staff during its numerous sorties here and abroad, has reportedly resigned as national coach when the BAP officially named Zamar the new SEAG mentor during its national congress in Dumaguete recently.

Still, Lim said they didn't fire Vergeire and added that they still have a room for the former San Beda mentor who was supposed to be the next in line after 2003 SEAG coach Aric del Rosario called it quits.

It was Vergeire, assisted by Zamar, who conducted the "Tryouts ng Bayan" where the national team pool was formed.

San Andres rules moto

REVTEX rider Kenneth San Andres ruled the expert division in round four of the Namssa-Philippine National Motocross Championships in Sta. Maria, Bulacan, recently.

San Andres, last year's Rookie of the Year and four-time awardee of the Philippine Sportswriters Association, left his rivals in the trail of his dust to score the dazzling victory before 5,000 fans.

His most impressive feat came in the afternoon heat of the Expert class, where he posted a 100-meter edge over closest pursuer PJ Alabanza and third-ranked Giovanni Leyva.

So awesome was the performance of the eight-time National Junior and Mini-Rider champion that his margin over the fourth-ranked Jimboy Marcelo reached a half lap.

"Kenneth has again proved his worth in the Expert Open competition," said San Andres' father/coach Jun-jun, another Revtex mainstay, who ruled the Veteran's Division of the series organized by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

San Andres, who is also supported by JBS Motorcycle Shop, KTM, Oakley, HJC Helmet, Renthal, Fox and UFO, is looking forward to round two of the FIM Asian Motocross Championships, to be held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, on March 20.

SPORTSWATCH

NAM mall tour

GNC, the leading food and health supplement retail chain in the country, will have its interactive mall tour at Robinsons Ermita in Manila tomorrow. Dubbed as NAM which stands for PBA stars Nic Belasco and Ali Peek with PBL hotshot Mark Cardona Mall Tour, it will have fun games, sports nutrition and fitness consultation and memorabilia exhibits. The public can also expect big prizes and attractive giveaways from co-sponsors Burlington, Accel, Osim, Oxyboost and Gadget Magazine. Belasco, Peek and Cardona, who take GNC products such as Mega Men and Creatine, will sign autographs and have photo sessions with the fans. GNC, which has JV Borromeo as VP for operations, has 40 branches throughout the archipelago.

Sportswriting tilt

REGISTRATION for the annual PBA Press Corps Sportswriting Contest is now open to all bona fide college students in Metro Manila and nearby provinces. The competition, with the backing of ABC-5 and the support of the PBA Commissioner's Office, is tentatively set April 13 and 15 at the Araneta Coliseum and Cuneta Astrodome, respectively. Cash prizes and plaques await the top three winners of the competition, which is also being supported by San Miguel Beer, Red Bull and Alaska. To register, call the PBA Office at 638-1815 to 17, local 110, and look for Hazel Ancheta or Diorela Ambrosio. Deadline for registration is on April 8.

Keon SCOOP guest

NATIONAL training director Michael Keon, ousted swimming association president Chito Ilagan and Philippine women's basketball team coach Raymond Celis will be the guests in today's SCOOP Sa Kamayan session at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Malate. Keon will reveal national sports associations which have submitted their training programs, a pre-requisite in availing financial aids from the First Gentleman Foundation Medalyang Ginto project. Ilagan is expected to talk on his next moves after the POC arbitration committee upheld Mark Joseph as the legitimate president of Pasa. Celis, on the other hand, will talk on preparations he has undertaken to strengthen the RP women's team in view of the withdrawals of nine former members.

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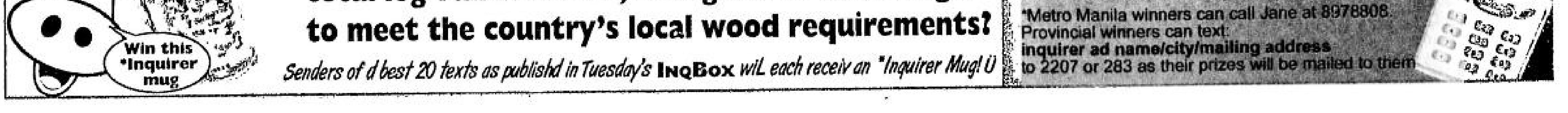

Question of the Week

Do you agree with the lifting of the country's total log ban in Davao, Caraga and Zamboanga to meet the country's local wood requirements?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **INQBOX** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! Ü*

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*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Petron Ladies Beach Volley under way

THE TRANQUIL, pearly white sands of Clearwater Country Club in Clark Field, Pampanga, come alive when the first leg of the 2005 Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball Tournament fires off today.

Led by champions Michelle Laborte and Cecile Tabuena of the Navy, the 20-player field—divided into 10 teams—is a motley mixture of veterans and newcomers with the common goal of becoming the country's beach volley queens.

Clearwater Country Club president and CEO Nino Sinco and Voltz Management Group's Tisha Abundo will make the ceremonial serve kicking off the event.

Joining the Navy pair in the two-day event also supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor and Toyota Pasong Tamo, are veterans Jennifer Bohawe and Patricia Siatan, Lou Maranon and Jackie Montefrio, Rosalina Gomez and Joyce Ann Realeza, and Roma Jaro and Joan Namuco.

The newcomers are Suzane Roces and Mary Abigail Escandor, Katherine Rivera and Ginaflor Alanguilan, Diane Destajo and Jennifer Halos, and Jenevive Lanuevo and Ola Jade of the PATTS School of Aeronautics.

Speedo is the official outfitter while Mikasa is the official ball.

RACING TIPS

AT SLLP BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Pasirit 2. Patutina 3. Kusang Loob 4. Last Dance
Race 2—1. Split Decision 2. Tervalac 3. Sweet Alyssa
Race 3—1. Top of D Line 2. Bronte 3. Top Most 4. Ma Cherie
Race 4—1. My Aday 2. Gabriela 3. Jonny Lou 4. Sir Olizon
Race 5—1. Dow Jones 2. Run Like D Wind/King Asa 3. Bella Firenze/Overture 4. Mister Cool
Race 6—1. Luck of the Irish 2. War Epic 3. Espirikitik 4. Itz Me Dahlin
Race 7—1 Royal Rose 2. Storm Princess 3. La Española 4. JJ's Friend 5. Divine Right
Race 8—1. Solid North 2. Precious Moment 3. Hot Babe 4. Road Runner
Race 9—1. Eden's Quest 2. Princess Cielo 3. Gentleman's Lady 4. Loaded 5. Bashful Lady 6. Reign of Fire

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Negros booters gain finals

Rip Laguna in semis, see title showdown with NCR

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Negros Occidental avenged its semifinal defeat last year by crushing Philippine Army-backed Laguna, 4-0, yesterday to reach the finals of the 2005 PFF-adidas National men's championship at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Center here.

Striker Richard Canedo, who did not see action last year, came up with a hat trick and Wouter Delbaere, Negros' 6-foot Belgian reinforcement from Dumaguete City, completed the rout with another goal in the closing minutes.

Negros now plays for the championship today against the winner of the other semifinal match pitting reigning champion NCR-Philippine Navy and the youthful Davao squad which was going on at presstime.

The championship match is set at 3 p.m.

"We expect to meet NCR in the finals," said Negros coach Norman Fegidero. "Of course, Davao is an easier opponent, but it's going to be an exciting game if our longtime rivals from the Navy get into the championship match."

Canedo beat Laguna's goalkeeper with a free kick from 25 yards in the seventh minute and scored again in the 33rd on a booming grounder from just outside the penalty area. He completed the hat trick in the 75th minute with another free kick just outside the box.

Delbaere blasted home Negros' fourth goal from six meters in the 82nd minute.

Confident of besting their much younger foes from Davao City, NCR mentor Edward Joel Antony is also raring for a rematch with the Negrenses. The two sides battled to a bruising 1-1 draw in their Group B match, with the referee flashing 11 yellow and three red cards.

The tournament is backed by PFF partners SuperFerry, Petron and Red Ribbon Bakeshop.

ZAMBOANGA'S Turkish striker Dilkmen Furkan (middle) rises to receive a pass from the right wing off the NCR keeper during their match Tuesday. NCR won, 3-0, to barge into the semifinals of the tournament at the Pelaez Sports Center in Cagayan de Oro.

37 qualifiers mix it up in MF finals

THIRTY-SEVEN qualifiers from a record field of 117 entries collide in today's championship round of the Mikko Fatman 6-Cock Derby at the Pasay City Cockpit, with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free as sponsors. Today's 4-cock finals will start at 4 p.m. with more than P2 million in prizes at stake, said derby host Pepito Ngo. The champions will get Kebao DVD players as bonus. Among the latest batch of qualifiers who posted two wins each last Wednesday are Jake Macasaet, two-time world champion William Go, Louie Cua, Efren Canlas of Pampanga, Joel Fernando, Major Mariquit, Richard Bates and Gov. Ito Yñares. The early qualifiers include Patrick Antonio, Tony Lasala, Boy Royo and Pol Estrellado, Lito Orillaza, Rey Briones, and Allan Siaco. For derby details, call 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750.

GCAP derby features 60 fights at LPC

MORE than 60 quality fights are on tap when the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 7-Cock Derby series returns to the Las Piñas Coliseum on Monday and Wednesday. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. GCAP president Rudy Albano said yesterday that non-members are competing alongside GCAP regulars. Among them are former World Slasher Cup champion Rey Briones, Melchor Caluag, Arman Santos and Blandy Tolentino of Laguna. Set to challenge them are GCAP regulars like Gov. Ito Yñares, Jet Fernando, Gerry Ramos, Patrick Antonio, Mayor Nene Aguilar, Boyet Legazpi, Strike Revilla, Jenjen Arayata, Tony Lasala, Benjie Lim, Rudy Albano, Tito Reyes, Tonette Luzuriaga, Paeng Araneta among others. Participants must submit entries this Sunday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For inquiries, call 8731040 or 8743910. Complexor 3000 of Antonio and NML SP of Lasala shared the title in the fourth GCAP derby recently.

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5 LEMONY SNICKET'S				GUARANTEED SEATS 5 HITCH 1 25, 3 45, 6 05, 8 25, 10 45	5

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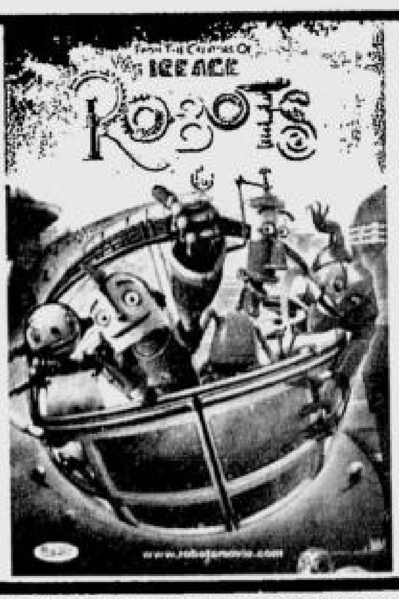

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2 THE FINAL CUT 10:50 1:05 3:20 5:35 7:50 10:00	7 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
3 HOSTAGE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 CURSED 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 11:00 1:50 4:40 7:30 10:00
5 HITCH 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	10 SON OF THE MASK 2 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HOSTAGE	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOG 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	5 THE FINAL CUT 10:20 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
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2 CONSTANTINE 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 9:00	6 HITCH 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
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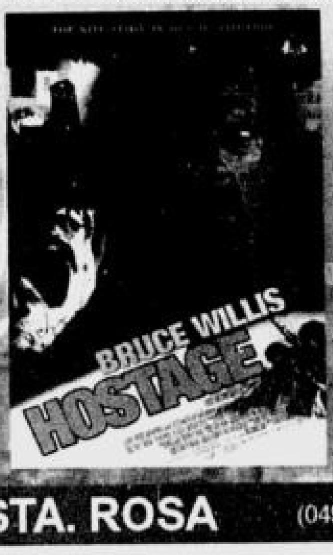

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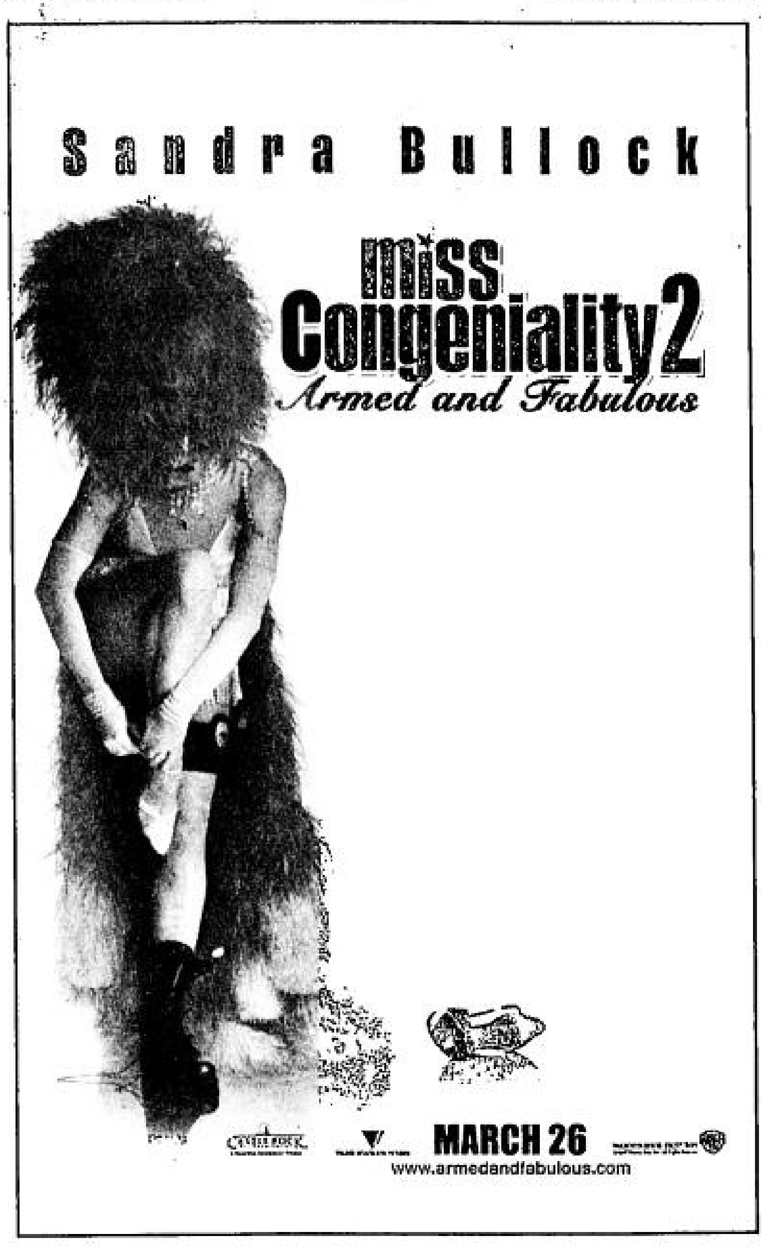
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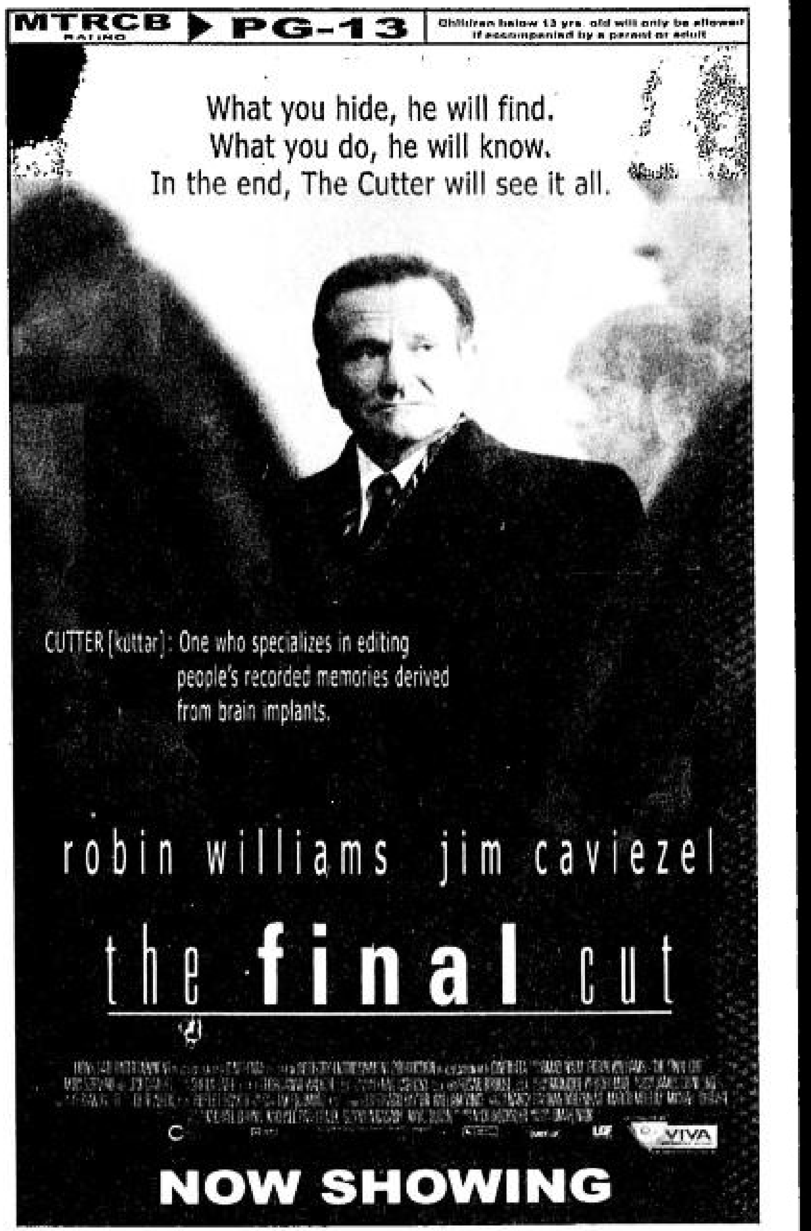
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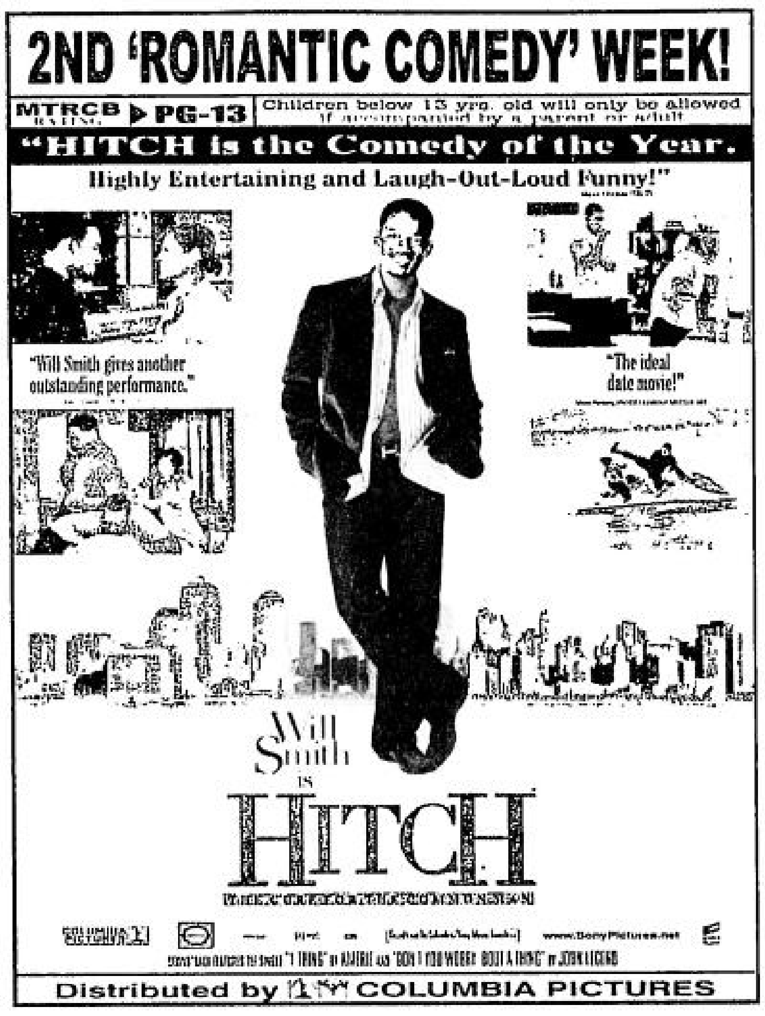
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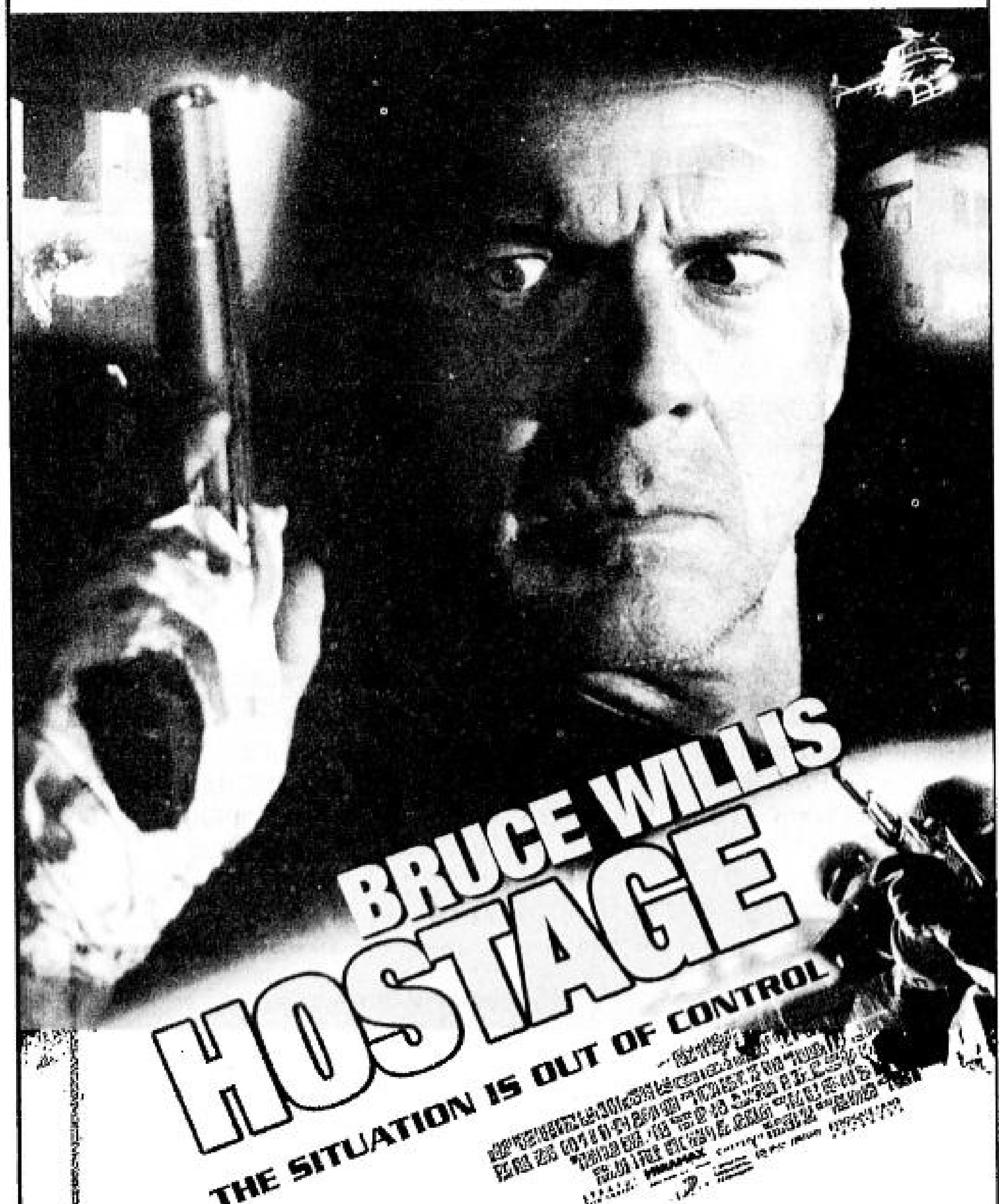
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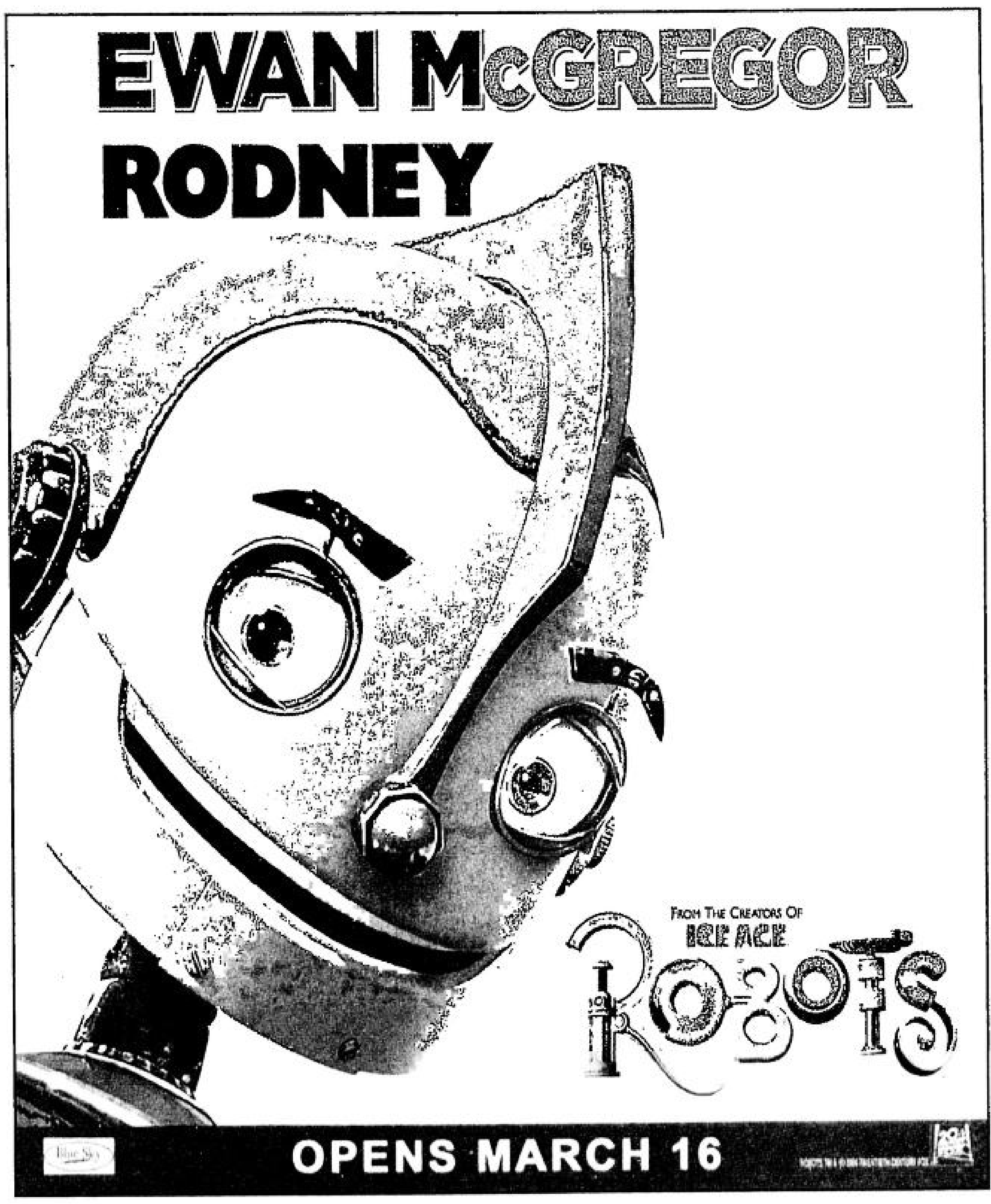
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SPORTS

Last Olympic coach wishes Chot success

REYES: Big task

By Dennis U. Eroa
Inquirer Libre Sports Editor

THE LAST man to handle the Philippine men's basketball team in the Olympics yesterday wished coach Chot Reyes and his wards success in their bid to make the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

"I wish that the Philippines will join the world's leading teams in Beijing," said Ignacio "Ning" Ramos, who coached the country in the 1972 Munich Olympics.

Now 76, Ramos, who shrugged off reports of his death, said making the Beijing Olympics will make Filipinos tremendously proud.

"For one, I'll be very, very happy to see Chot Reyes and his team make the Olympics after 36 long years," Ramos said.

The former Soviet Union beat the United States, 51-50, in a controversial final during the Munich Games marred by a terrorist attack by Palestinian guerillas on Israeli athletes and officials.

Some of the players who saw action in Munich were Williams "Bogs" Adornado, now an assistant coach in the PBA, Jimmy Mariano, Marte Samson, Danny Florencio, Narciso Bernardo, former Sen. Freddie Webb, Yoyong Martirez, and the late Ed Ocampo and Tembong Melencio.

Aside from the Philippines, which finished with a 3-6 card, Asia was represented by Japan.

The Philippines will try to crash the Olympics when it competes in the 2007 ABC Championships. The Nationals need to finish no lower than second in a field composed of Asian powers China and South Korea. Iran, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan are also tough to beat.

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Epson Cup 2 leveling sessions up

EPSON Cup 2 will begin its leveling sessions tomorrow with hundreds of badminton enthusiasts expected to troop to the Pioneer Badminton Center at Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

Former national player EG Lim will conduct the leveling sessions from 1-5 p.m. tomorrow and on Sunday for the qualifying rounds of the tournament slated April 9-17.

Tournament chair Edmin Tarriela also scheduled leveling sessions on March 19 (6-10 p.m.) and on March 20 (1-5 p.m.) at Pioneer Badminton, host of Epson Cup's inaugural badminton tourney in 2003.

Early registrants will take home an Epson gym bag. The event is sponsored by Shell, Wilson, Apple Center, Konica (Columbia Photo), Citibank, Mizuno, Philippine Daily Inquirer, UNO Magazine, Magic 89.9, 99.5 RT, Yehey.com, PBNet and Fitness First.

"It's our way of sustaining the tremendous following of the sport in the country," said Randy Kanapi, Epson's marketing chief.

Sanctioned by the Philippine Badminton Association, Epson Cup 2 will have qualifying rounds at the Olympic Badminton Club in Libis, Quezon City. The Greenhills Badminton Center will host the semifinals and finals.

"Except for national players, the tournament is basically open for badminton fanatics from all walks of life, from the beginners to the advanced players," said Tarriela.

Registration fee is pegged at P500. Deadline for registration is on March 20. For details, contact 6385343, 746-0828 or visit www.epson.com.ph.

Eala clarifies Jawo 'snub'

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

DURING last Tuesday's PSA Forum, PBA commissioner Noli Eala said basketball legend Robert Jaworski was not ignored when he was excluded from the list of coaching consultants to the Philippine team that is bidding to qualify for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Jaworski's contribution to Philippine basketball is valuable, Eala stressed, explaining that the Big J, who is out of the country, would be consulted upon his arrival from abroad.

In my most recent piece, I asked basketball officials why the name of Jaworski was excluded from the list of consultants that included former Asian Games coaches Norman Black, Tim Cone and Jong Uichico when the Big J himself had the best record in the Asiad. Jaworski coached the Philippine team that won second place in the 1990 Asian Games in Beijing. Black's team landed fourth in the 1994 Asiad in Hiroshima; Cone's squad finished third in Bangkok in 1998 while Uichico's nationals also placed fourth in Busan in 2002.

"The main reason why his name has not been mentioned is because he is still in the United States on vacation," said Eala.

However, many basketball diehards are not buying this latest pitch, saying it is only a ploy to make amends. They said that if basketball officials indeed had the genuine intention of including Jaworski in the national team, they should have named him even before he left for the US or even while he is still on vacation and not only now when the issue had been raised (in this column).

At any rate, what I am driving at is for the PBA to promptly announce in the media issues of interest to the basketball fans (such as the inclusion or non-inclusion of Jaworski in the national team) in order to stop people from asking: How efficient is the PBA at dealing with the public?

***

A FILIPINO STILL BEST IN BILLIARDS. Once again, another Filipino reigned supreme in the sport of billiards.

Last Sunday, veteran internationalist Gandy Valle of Davao City made an auspicious debut in the 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour by nosing out Chinese Taipei's 16-year-old whiz kid, Wu Chia-ching, 11-9, at the Suntec Exhibition Hall in Singapore.

His dramatic victory saved the day for the Philippines whose best bets—former world champion Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante—were earlier booted out.

Valle, the winner of the country's lone gold medal in 9-ball doubles (with Romeo Villanueva) in the 1998 Asian Games in Bangkok, earned the trip to Singapore by reaching the semifinals of the recent Hope All-Filipino Open. In Singapore, Valle barged into the finals by beating Yang Ching-shun, 11-8, also of Chinese Taipei, and compatriot Lee Vann Corteza, 12-10.

Chiefly because they have trained hard and traveled far, aside from the moral and financial support provided by their patrons, Putch and Popit Puyat of Puyat Sports, I say a Filipino will again prevail in this year's four-leg SMB Asian 9-Ball Tour. Reyes dominated the Tour last year, winning three of five legs.

The other stops in the 2005 Tour are Jakarta (April 1-3), Kaoshiung (April 29-May 1) and Manila (June 3-5). The Top 10 Tour players will qualify for this year's World 9-Ball Championship won last year by Canada-based Filipino Alex Pagulayan in Taipei.

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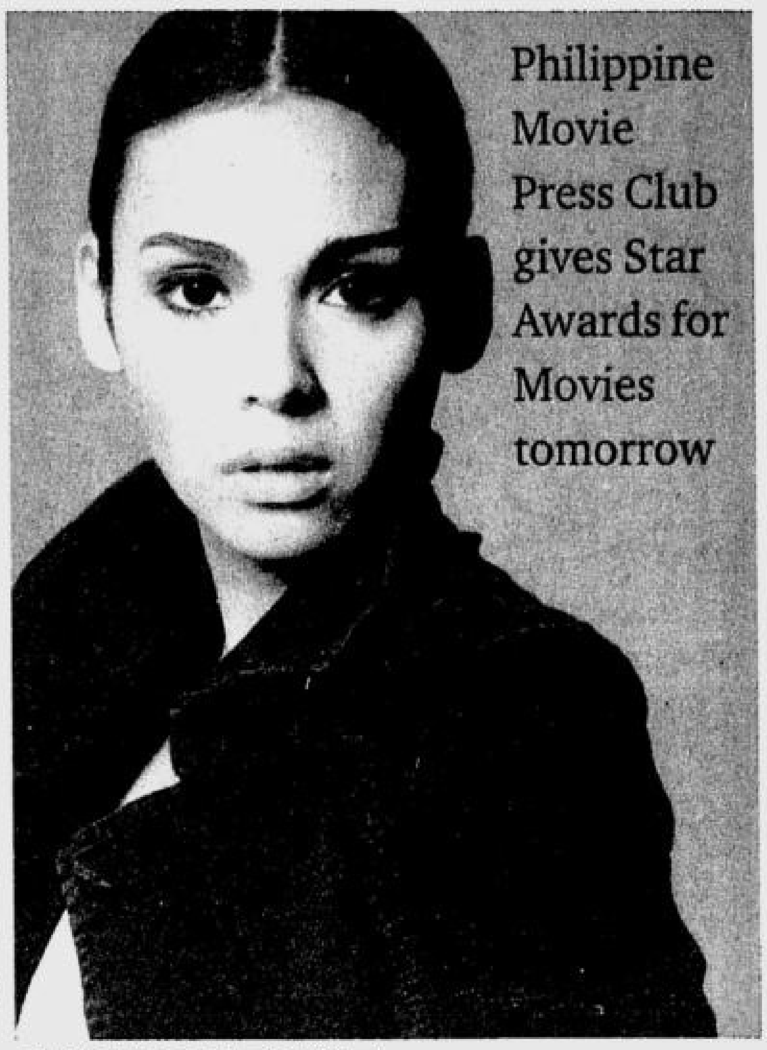

Philippine Movie Press Club gives Star Awards for Movies tomorrow

CLAUDINE BARRETTO, "Milan"

Love, war and a scare

By Marinel R. Cruz

THREE love stories, a war epic and a horror flick are competing tomorrow for the coveted Best Picture trophy in the Philippine Movie Press Club's 21th Star Awards for Movies.

"Feng Shui," the box-office horror hit starring Kris Aquino, is up against drama films "Naglalayag," "Aishite Imasu 1941," "Mano Po 3: My Love" and "Milan."

Conspicuously missing from the list is "Panaghoy Sa Suba," winner of major awards in last week's Golden Screen Awards (given by the Entertainment Press Society) and, earlier, the Metro Manila Film Festival.

Kris, better known for the top-rating shows she hosts for ABS-CBN, will be challenging drama veterans Vilma Santos ("Mano Po 3: My Love"), Nora Aunor ("Naglalayag"), Judy Ann Santos ("Sabel") and Claudine Barretto ("Milan") for Best Actress.

Filmmaker Joel Lamangan has two Best Director nominations—for "Aishite Imasu 1941" and "Mano Po 3:· My Love"—but Maryo J. de los Reyes ("Naglalayag"), Olivia Lamasan ("Milan") and Chito Roño ("Feng Shui") are certainly tough rivals.

"I feel flattered that my work is being recognized," Lamangan told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday. "My actors have been winning awards. I consider their awards my victory, too. This inspires me to do better."

Lamangan was referring to Judy Ann Santos, Maricel Soriano, Eric Quizon and newcomer Dennis Trillo, who all took home Golden Screen trophies on March 5.

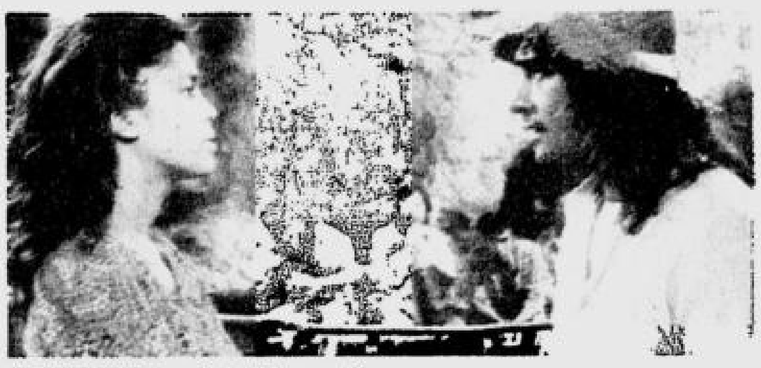
Trillo won Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Aishite Imasu 1941." He is nominated for a Star Best Actor Award for the same role. His worthy opponents are Piolo Pascual ("Milan"), Jericho Rosales ("Santa Santita"), Yul Servo ("Naglalayag") and Jomari Yllana ("Minsan Pa").

Ara Mina, the Golden Screen winner for her portrayal of a lovelorn pre-school teacher in "Minsan Pa," leads the Best Supporting Actress nominees—Lotlot de Leon ("Feng Shui"), Sunshine Dizon ("Sabel"), Ilonah Jean ("Milan") and Chanda Romero ("Naglalayag").

Veterans Eddie Garcia ("Mano Po 3: My Love") and Johnny Delgado ("Santa Santita") are pitted against young actors James Blanco ("Sigaw"), Jay Manalo ("Mano Po 3: My Love") and Jomari Yllana ("Sigaw") for Best Supporting Actor.

In the Original Screenplay category, Ricardo "Ricky" Lee is nominated for both "Aishite Imasu 1941" and "Milan"; Irma Dimaranan for "Naglalayag"; and Roy Iglesias for both "Mano Po 3: My Love" and "Feng Shui." Iglesias shares credit with Chito Roño for "Feng Shui."

LOVE/ A2-3


"PANAGHOY sa Suba" ignored?

Too many film awards

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL show biz scene is rife with awesome ironies. One of the most recent phenomena along these lines is the confounding fact that, as Filipino film production has drastically dropped, the number of local movie award groups continues to rise!

The last time we counted, there were some 10 different film awards, while annual movie production has plunged from a high of 200 to something like only 70 or so last year.

So, the ratio between movies produced and awards group that "honor" them is around seven films per awards group! This would make Filipino movies the most "awarded" in the world!

This situation would be laughable, were it not so lamentable—and hypocritical.

Awards groups profess to come up with new sets of cinematic citations to give the floundering Filipino movie industry a boost, but some of them are seen to be in it mainly for the money, influence and power.

Worse, a number of our film awards groups wouldn't know a good movie if it hit them in the kisser. This explains why some of our awards groups can't seem to agree on which production should be voted as Best Picture, thus confusing film fans no end.

In fact, some so-called film awardees are so patently mediocre that they prompt some movie buffs to stop paying attention to movie awards in general. For our part, we aren't as blanket in our condemnation and still give a credence to a couple of awards groups' choices.

All this would be really no big deal, except for the fact that undeserved awards rob worthy winners of the credibility that they're entitled to. So, we should be vigilant against incompetent and fly-by-night groups that hand out trophies for their own subjective ends.

There *are* film standards to be maintained, and film lovers in the know should use them as touchstones by which to evaluate the credibility of different awards groups' verdicts.

Ultimately, the biggest losers in this sorry situation are the members of the viewing public. Since awards have become so unreliable, the average viewer has become confused about which movies and film artists to patronize.

To protect himself, the concerned viewer should survey each awards group's record in the past five years. Have the groups' verdicts been generally reliable? If so, continue to give its decisions the importance they deserve. As for the groups whose verdicts often come out of left field, ignore them for the mere distractions they are.

As for the film talents who win awards they suspect they don't deserve: Don't rest on your laurels, be-

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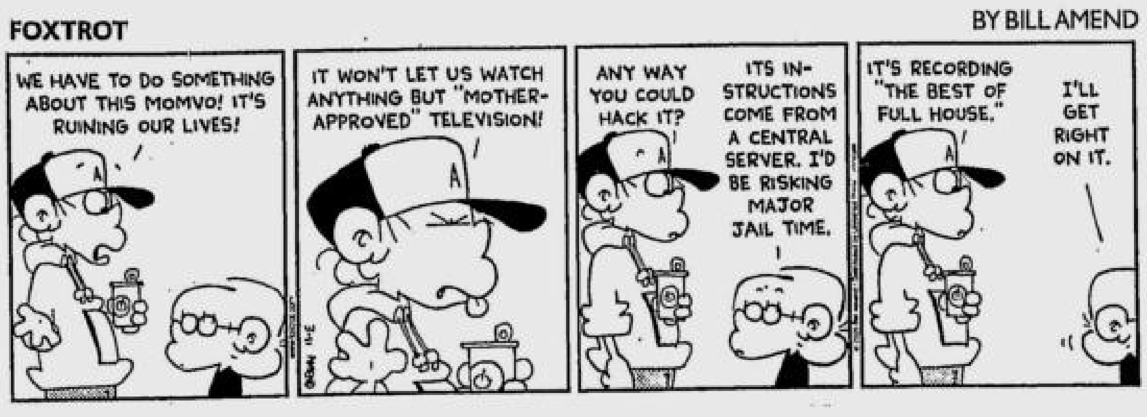
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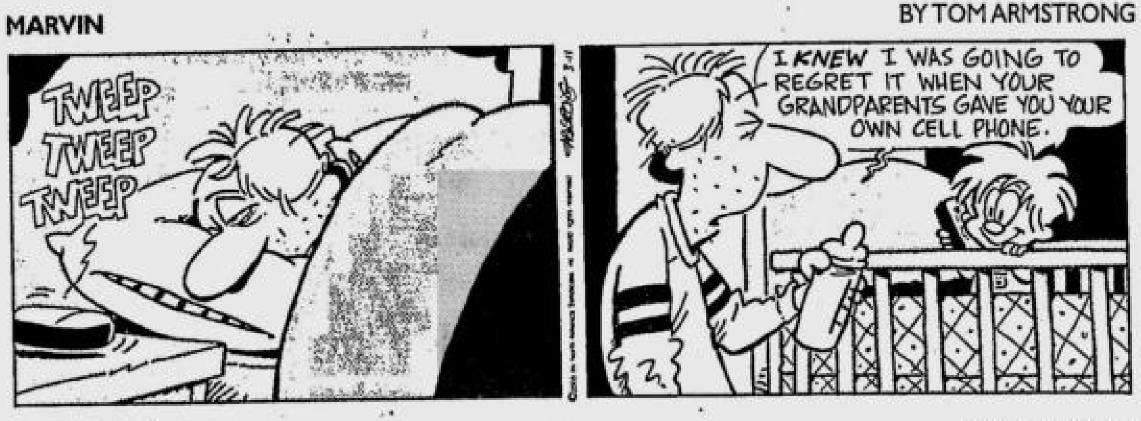
BY TOM ARMSTRONG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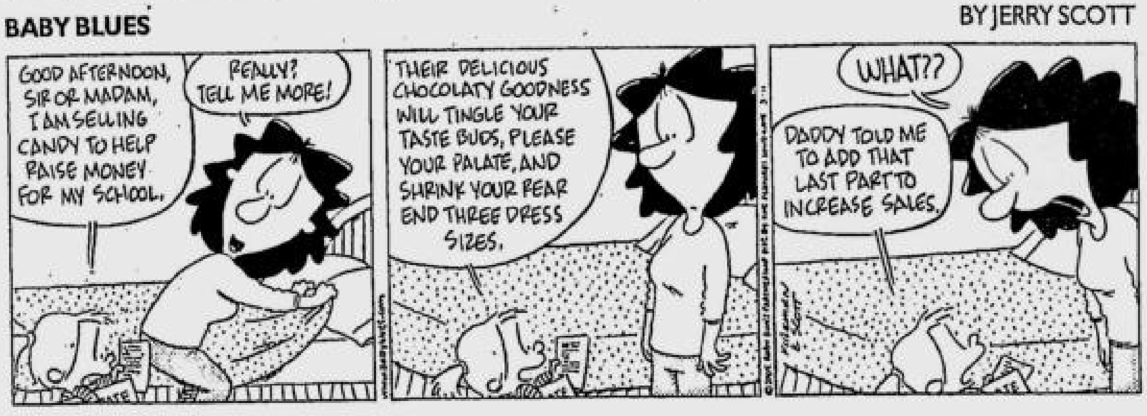
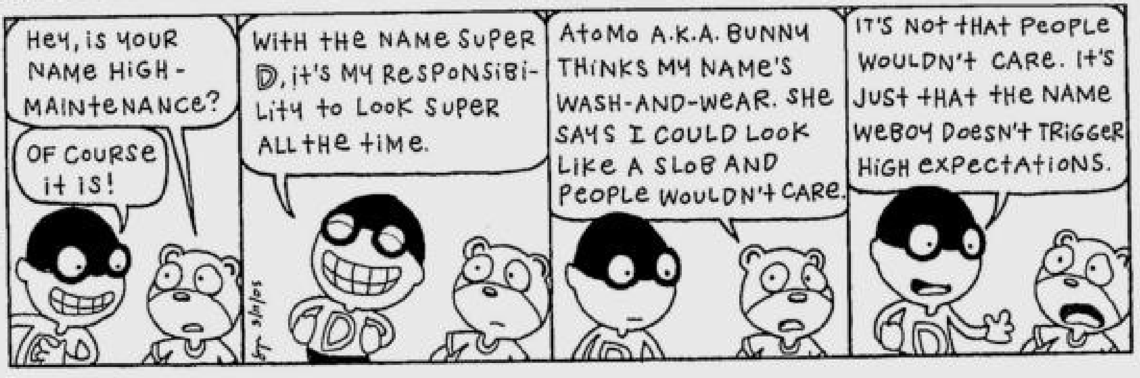
BY JERRY SCOTT


GOOD AFTERNOON, SIR OR MADAM, I AM SELLING CANDY TO HELP RAISE MONEY FOR MY SCHOOL.
REALLY? TELL ME MORE!
THEIR DELICIOUS CHOCOLATY GOODNESS WILL TINGLE YOUR TASTE BUDS, PLEASE YOUR PALATE, AND SHRINK YOUR REAR END THREE DRESS SIZES.
WHAT??
DADDY TOLD ME TO ADD THAT LAST PART TO INCREASE SALES.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, is your name high-maintenance?
Of course it is!
With the name Super D, it's my responsibility to look super all the time.
Atomo a.k.a. Bunny thinks my name's wash-and-wear. She says I could look like a slob and people wouldn't care.
It's not that people wouldn't care. It's just that the name Weboy doesn't trigger high expectations.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're shrewd and bold. You're also very tasteful, gracious and charming. You're certainly progressive and modern in your thought. You are quite ambitious to succeed. In large measure, you will do so because you know what the public wants. You can spot trends and growing ideas. The year ahead involves making an important decision or choice.

Birthdate of: Lawrence Welk, bandleader; Sam Donaldson, TV journalist; Thora Birch, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): With the Moon in your sign today, you're a bit luckier than usual. You feel energetic and more emotional, but lively! You need to talk to people.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Try to squeeze a little private time into today just for yourself. You need a breather to collect your thoughts and pull your act together. You'll function better afterward.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A female friend could be helpful to you today. You're in the limelight now, and you can use all the advice or assistance that comes your way.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Whatever you do today will call attention to you. Be aware of this in all your actions and your speech. Dealings with a female boss (or your mother) are significant.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You want to do something different. Your sense of adventure is sparked! Therefore, go someplace you've never been before. Visit new stores, parks, restaurants—anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might feel a bit possessive about your share of something today. Don't let anyone talk you into giving up something if you don't want to do it. Stand firm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today's Moon opposes your sign. However, you find it easy to be diplomatic and cooperative, because that's your style. (You've had years of practice!)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're an amazingly productive individual. "Move that mountain!" "Build the bridge!" That's why any effort to get better organized will serve you well.

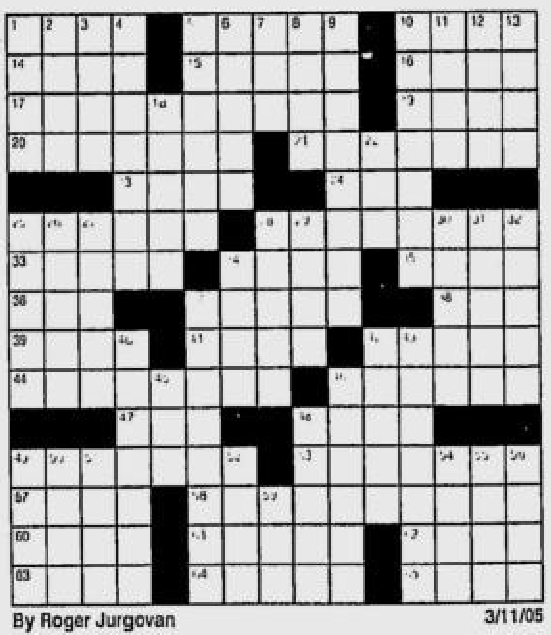
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You feel flirtatious and playful today! You might play a prank or a practical joke on someone. Basically, you want to have fun, and you want others to join you in laughter.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Home, family and traditional values matter a lot to you. This is a good day to give extra attention to your domestic scene. Focus on a parent if you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): It's a great day for shopping. Take a short trip. Talk to neighbors, siblings and relatives. Get out and enjoy yourself in busy activities by running errands and catching up on little details.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a good day for financial matters. It's also good day to shop for hats and glasses. (Your purchases might be a bit bolder than usual.)

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Roger Jurgovan
Potomac, MD

3/11/05

ACROSS
1 Czech religious reformer
5 Port of Iraq
10 Roam
14 Inelegant denial
15 Love on the Loire
16 Tied
17 Theme of this puzzle
19 Transmit
20 Displayers
21 Arranges another way
23 Slaughter in Cooperstown
24 Neither partner?
25 One Carnegie
28 Deere vehicles
33 Throw out of bed
34 Actual
35 Sooty matter
36 & so forth
37 Salty drops
38 Important period
39 Seines
41 Loser to the tortoise
42 Wrapped Havana
44 Parties insured
46 Concluding section
47 Vocalize displeasure
48 Element #80
49 Topic
53 Enrage
57 Curving molding
58 Precipitation preceders
60 Baldwin brother
61 "Seascape" playwright
62 Carpentry tools
63 Breach
64 Pavarotti's voice
65 Soothe

DOWN
1 Expressions of confusion
2 Oops!
3 Form of wrestling
4 Rainfalls
5 Cart with handles
6 Pile up
7 Saturate
8 German industrial region
9 Stocks of weapons
10 Vacation spots
11 Finished
12 Air outlet
13 Concludes
18 "The Screens" dramatist
22 Assn.
25 Sports site
26 Musical units
27 Conduits
28 Rends
29 Once in a lifetime
30 Last Greek letter
31 Part of RFD
32 Gaze
34 Be a bookworm
37 Divine ruler
40 Cause to experience
42 Around
43 Smoky fragrance
45 Fish eggs
46 Guitar brand
48 Actor Sal
49 Fly high
50 Homely citrus?
51 Complaint
52 Story
54 Sports org.
55 Bastes
56 Caesar's being
59 Abdul Aziz __ Saud

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	P	■	P	A	I	L	■	M	A	R	A	C	A
P	A	L	■	A	N	T	E	■	U	S	E	F	U	L
I	C	E	■	N	A	S	A	■	T	H	E	R	E	S
A	R	A	H	A	T	■	S	P	A	■	D	O	D	O
N	O	S	U	C	H	T	H	I	N	G	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	N	E	E	R	■	E	T	A	G	E	R	E
P	E	N	N	A	M	E	S	■	■	S	N	E	E	R
E	L	O	I	■	A	S	F	U	N	■	O	R	A	L
T	A	T	E	R	■	■	O	T	O	S	C	O	P	E
S	T	E	R	E	O	S	■	A	V	E	C	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	F	O	R	T	H	E	W	H	O	L	E
O	D	O	R	■	C	I	A	■	L	A	I	N	E	S
F	A	M	I	L	Y	■	P	A	I	N	■	T	A	T
F	R	A	M	E	S	■	E	L	S	E	■	A	V	E
S	T	R	E	E	T	■	R	I	T	E	■	P	E	R

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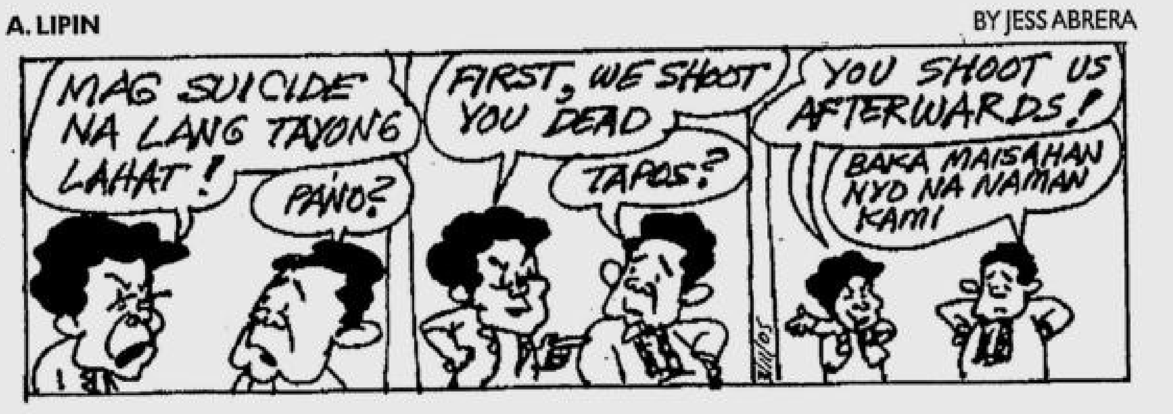
3/11/05

GASFAR
fuel saving tips
FOLLOW YOUR VEHICLE'S RECOMMENDED OIL SERVICE SCHEDULE.
Regular oil and oil filter changes prolong the life of your engine by reducing the friction between engine parts. This also means your engine works less, hence, less fuel consumption.

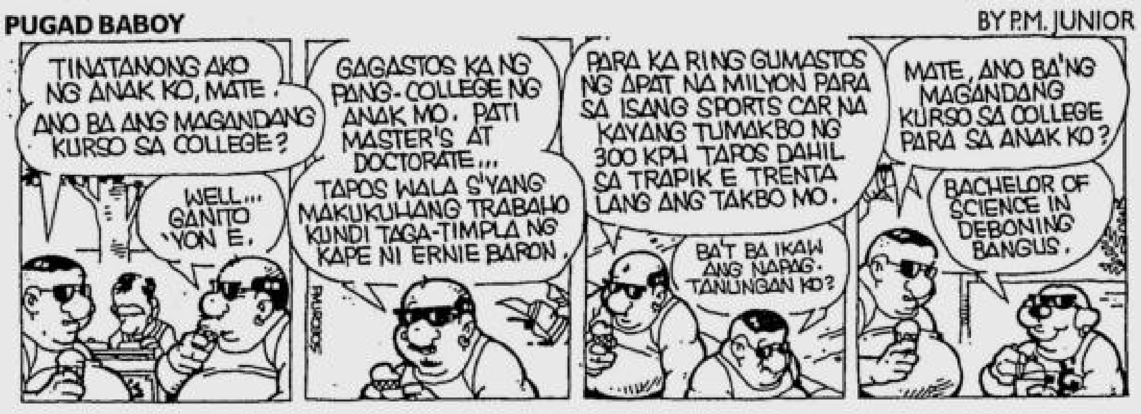
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAG SUICIDE NA LANG TAYONG LAHAT!
PANO?
FIRST, WE SHOOT YOU DEAD
TAPOS?
YOU SHOOT US AFTERWARDS!
BAKA MAISAHAN NYO NA NAMAN KAMI

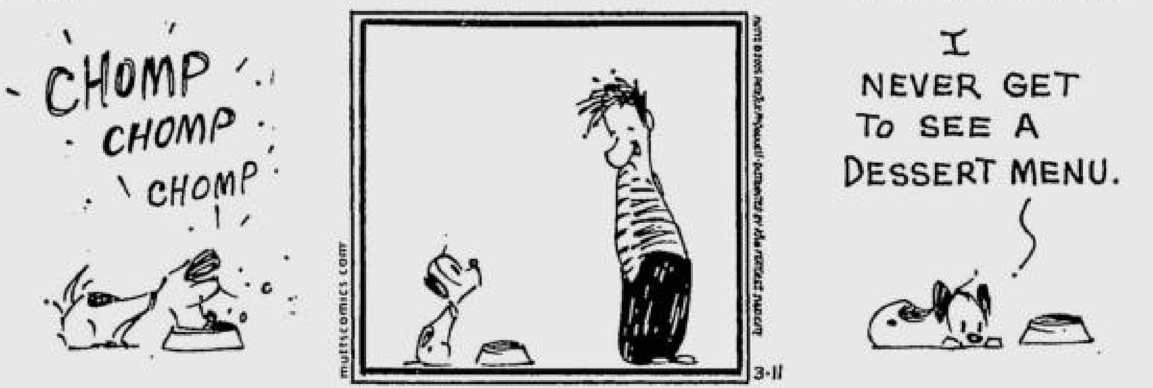
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TINATANONG AKO NG ANAK KO, MATE. ANO BA ANG MAGANDANG KURSO SA COLLEGE?
WELL... GANITO 'YON E.
GAGASTOS KA NG PANG-COLLEGE NG ANAK MO. PATI MASTER'S AT DOCTORATE... TAPOS WALA S'YANG MAKUKUHANG TRABAHO KUNDI TAGA-TIMPLA NG KAPE NI ERNIE BARON.
PARA KA RING GUMASTOS NG APAT NA MILYON PARA SA ISANG SPORTS CAR NA KAYANG TUMAKBO NG 300 KPH TAPOS DAHIL SA TRAPIK E TRENTA LANG ANG TAKBO MO.
BA'T BA IKAW ANG NAPAG-TANUNGAN KO?
MATE, ANO BA'NG MAGANDANG KURSO SA COLLEGE PARA SA ANAK KO?
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DEBONING BANGUS.

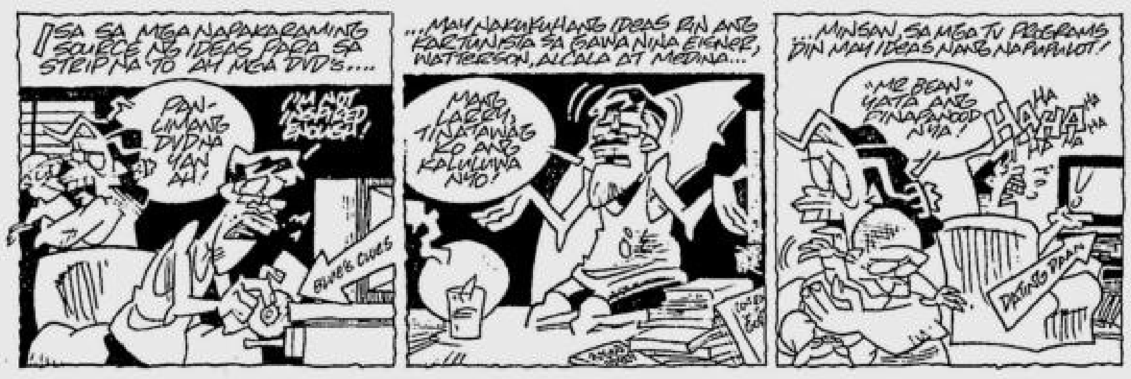
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
muttscomics.com
3-11
I NEVER GET TO SEE A DESSERT MENU.

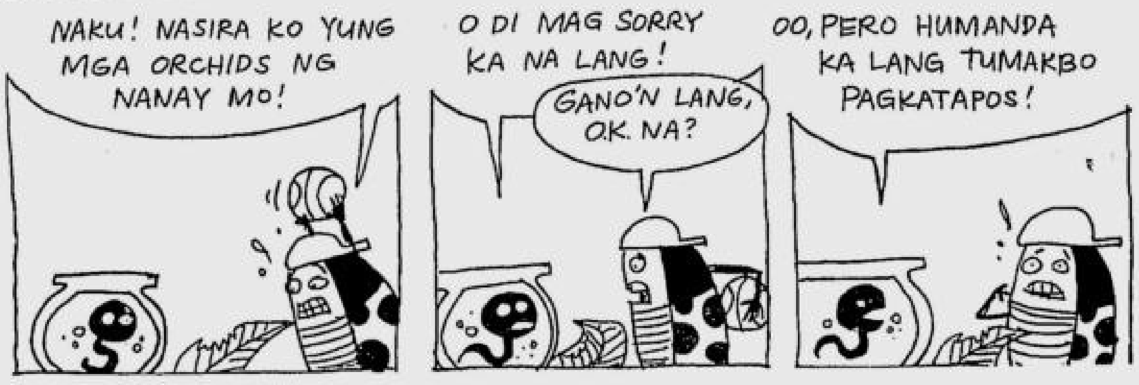
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ISA SA MGA NAPAKARAMING SOURCE NG IDEAS PARA SA STRIP NA 'TO AY MGA DVD'S....
PANLIMANG DVD NA 'YAN AH!
BLUE'S CLUES
...MAY NAKUKUHANG IDEAS RIN ANG KARTUNISTA SA GAWA NINA EISNER, WATTERSON, ALCALA AT MEDINA...
MANG LARRY, TINATAWAG KO ANG KALULUWA NYO!
...MINSAN, SA MGA TV PROGRAMS DIN MAY IDEAS NANG NAPUPULOT!
"MR BEAN" YATA ANG PINAPANOOD NYA!
HA HA HA HA HA
DATING DAAN

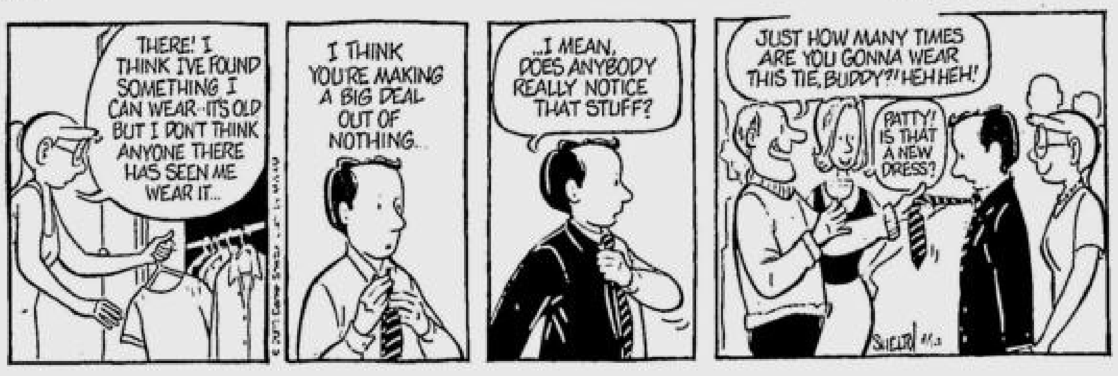
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


NAKU! NASIRA KO YUNG MGA ORCHIDS NG NANAY MO!
O DI MAG SORRY KA NA LANG!
GANO'N LANG, O.K. NA?
OO, PERO HUMANDA KA LANG TUMAKBO PAGKATAPOS!

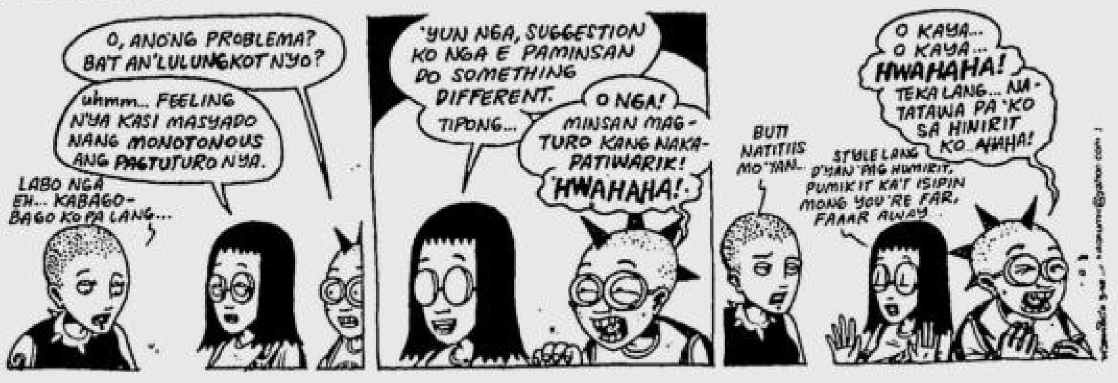
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


THERE! I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING I CAN WEAR--IT'S OLD BUT I DON'T THINK ANYONE THERE HAS SEEN ME WEAR IT...
I THINK YOU'RE MAKING A BIG DEAL OUT OF NOTHING...
...I MEAN, DOES ANYBODY REALLY NOTICE THAT STUFF?
JUST HOW MANY TIMES ARE YOU GONNA WEAR THIS TIE, BUDDY?! HEH HEH!
PATTY! IS THAT A NEW DRESS?

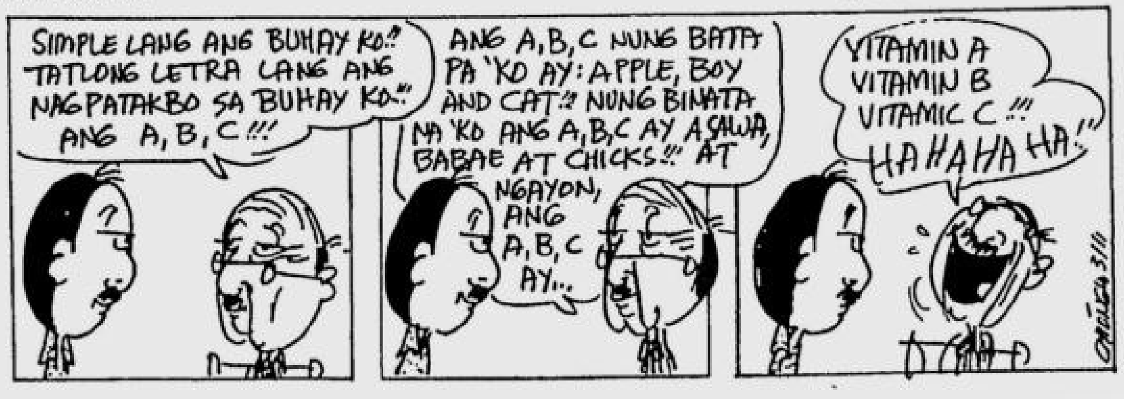
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O, ANONG PROBLEMA? BAT AN'LULUNGKOT NYO?
uhmm... FEELING N'YA KASI MASYADO NANG MONOTONOUS ANG PAGTUTURO NYA.
LABO NGA EH... KABAGO-BAGO KO PA LANG...
'YUN NGA, SUGGESTION KO NGA E PAMINSAN DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. TIPONG...
O NGA! MINSAN MAG-TURO KANG NAKA-PATIWARIK!
HWAHAHA!
BUTI NATITIIS MO 'YAN...
STYLE LANG D'YAN 'PAG HUMIRIT. PUMIKIT KA'T ISIPIN MONG YOU'RE FAR, FAAAR AWAY...
O KAYA... O KAYA... HWAHAHA! TEKA LANG... NATATAWA PA 'KO SA HINIRIT KO... AHAHA!

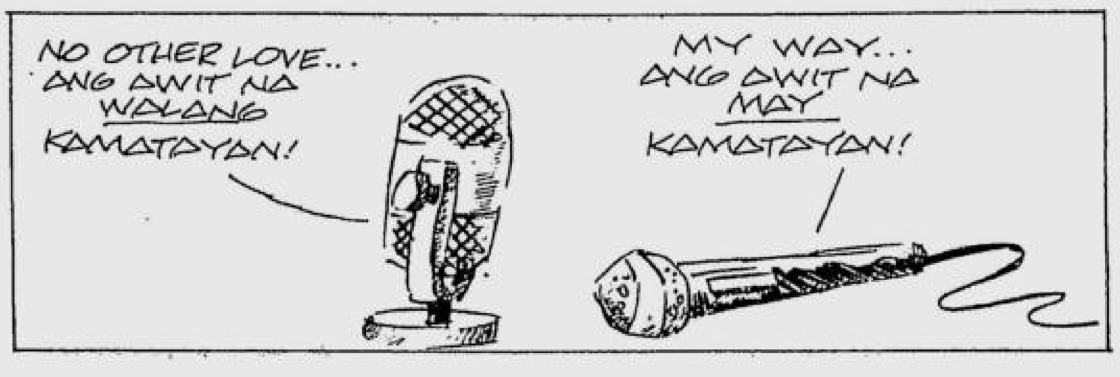
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


SIMPLE LANG ANG BUHAY KO!! TATLONG LETRA LANG ANG NAGPATAKBO SA BUHAY KO!! ANG A, B, C!!!
ANG A, B, C NUNG BATA PA 'KO AY: APPLE, BOY AND CAT!! NUNG BINATA NA 'KO ANG A, B, C AY ASAWA, BABAE AT CHICKS!! AT
NGAYON, ANG A, B, C AY...
VITAMIN A VITAMIN B VITAMIC C!!! HAHAHA HA!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NO OTHER LOVE... ANG AWIT NA WALANG KAMATAYAN!
MY WAY... ANG AWIT NA MAY KAMATAYAN!

Documentary on Itbayat island wins digital film festival

A TYPICAL storm-proof hut on Itbayat. ANNE JAMBORA

RAYA Martin's "Ang Isla sa Dulo ng Mundo (Island at the End of the World)" was named Best Documentary during the 2nd .MOV International Digital Film Festival awards night held at SM City Cebu on March 7.

The 109-minute film focuses on the last inhabited island in the Batanes group of islands. Itbayat is open to visitors in the summer but shuts off for an almost year-long havoc of storms. Little else is known about the place or its people.

"Isla" bested "The Ister" (Australia), "Surplus" (Sweden), "Romeo Must Rock" (Philippines), "The Big Durian" (Malaysia) and "Time and the River" (USA).

Martin, a senior film major at the UP Film Institute, participated in the Talent Campus of the 55th Berlin Film Festival last month. He won the Ishmael Bernal Award at the 6th Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival last year with the short film "Bakasyon."

Love, war and a scare

From page A2-1

Iglesias, who first heard of his nomination from INQUIRER Entertainment, said he was happy that two of his favorite works last year were being recognized. "The movie 'Feng Shui' is special to me because it is very different from my other works," Iglesia said. "On the other hand, 'Mano Po' is the first script I ever wrote for Vilma Santos."

Albert Michael Idioma is nominated for a total of four films in the Best Sound Engineer category—"Feng Shui," "Mano Po 3: My Love," "Milan," and "Sigaw" (with Arnold Reodica). The only other contender is Dennis Sunga, for "Santa Santita."

Award for Erap

The Ulirang Artista Award is being given to former President Joseph Estrada, for his lifetime work as an actor and producer. The former president's son, Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, will accept the award.

The awards show will be held at the Cinema 5 of Gateway Cineplex, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City.

The nominees in other categories:

Best Child Performer—Ella Guevarra ("Sigaw"), Julianne Gomez ("Feng Shui") John Vladimir Manalo ("Feng Shui") Bea Nicolas ("Sabel") and Ernest Sto. Tomas ("Feng Shui").

New Movie Actor—Hero Angeles ("Bcuz of U"), Jay Aquitania ("I Will Survive"), Mark Bautista ("Lastikman"), Mark Herras ("So Happy Together") and Dennis Trillo ("Aishite Imasu 1941").

Best Editor—Vito Cajili ("Feng Shui"), Marya Ignacio ("Aishite Imasu 1941"), Marya Ignacio ("Milan"), Tara Illenberger ("Mano Po 3: My Love") and Jesus Navarro ("Naglalayag").

Best Cinematographer—Shane Sarte-Clemente ("Milan"), Ely Cruz ("Panaghoy sa Suba"), Neil Daza ("Feng Shui"), Rolly Manuel ("Mano Po 3: My Love") and Lee Meily ("Santa Santita").

Best Production Designer—Raymond Bajarias ("Feng Shui"), Rodel Cruz ("Mano Po 3: My Love"), Edgar Martin Littaua ("Santa Santita"), Joey Luna ("Aishite Imasu 1941") and Noel Naval ("Milan").

One for 'Panaghoy'

Best Musical Scorer—Nonong Buencamino ("Panaghoy sa Suba"), Carmina Robles Cuva ("Feng Shui"), Lutgardo Labad ("Naglalayag"), Jesse Lucas ("Mano Po 3: My Love") and Raul Mitra (" Milan").

Best Original Theme Song—"Hanggang Wakas, Aishite Imasu" from the movie "Aishite Imasu 1941," composed by Von de Guzman and sung by Crew; "Kay Ganda ng Buhay" from "Beautiful Life," composed by Noel Cabangon, sung by Gino Torres; "Minsan Pa" from "Minsan Pa," composed by Armando Lao, sung by Jonathan Badon; "Naglalayag" from "Naglalayag," composed by Rey Valera, sung by Bituin Escalante; and "Pagbigyan ang Puso" from "Mano Po 3: My Love," composed by Ito Rapadas, sung by Jerome John Hughes and Karylle.

Too many film awards

From page A2-1

cause you know darn well that you have to work much harder to win the genuine awards that really matter!

'Mga Pusang Gala'

ELLEN Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala" is the closing film at the 15th International Women's Film Festival at Cine Adarna, UP Diliman, at 6:30 p.m. today. The Erasto Productions movie about the gender wars stars **Ricky Davao** and **Irma Adlawan**. Other key roles are played by **Reggie Curley, Alcris Galura** and **Lauren Novero.**

On Cartoon Network

AT 9 p.m. today, Cartoon Network screens "Grim Adventures of Billy & Mandy (Freaky Friday)." The series is about two kids who befriend the Grim Reaper after winning a limbo contest against the messenger of death. They deal with typical suburban challenges like school and family, as well as with unwanted visitors from the underworld.

Magic show

AT 8 p.m. tomorrow, Las Vegas-based magicians **Jeff Simon** and **Tom Silver** perform at Jools Entertainment Bar (P. Burgos Street, Makati). Also performing and assisting the magicians are the Jools Cabaret Dancers. Call 897-9097.

At Starmall

THE STAR Group of Malls' first-quarter Summer Splash takes place on March 18, 19 and 20. Avail of great selections and big discounts.

Carmela Cuneta, the teen singer behind some of the most popular *Korean-novela* soundtracks, will perform at 3 p.m. on March 13 at Starmall Las Piñas, and on March 19 at Metropolis Star Alabang.

The Bb. Las Piñas Pageant will be held on March 18 at Starmall Las Piñas. And the grand finals of "Stardanz 2005" are slated at 4 p.m. on March 20 at Starmall Edsa.

All-Digital Cinemas
MARKET! MARKET!
Cinemas! Cinemas!
The fun is in the finds
Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc.
Movie tickets for sale at the Ground Floor Fiesta Market and Customer Service Booth

Free Seating Cinemas: P70.00
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② Million Dollar Baby
③ Birhen ng Manaoag
④ Cursed
Guaranteed Seats Cinemas: P90.00
⑤ Hitch
⑥ The Final Cut
⑦ Hostage
Movies are subject to change without prior notice.
Customer Service Hotline: 886-7516

Limited offer!
Entertainment Package
P500
Valid only for certain movies.
Please see ticket booths for details.
MARKET! MARKET! Cinemas! Cinemas!
5 Movie Passes (Guaranteed Seats Cinema)
1 BigTime Popcorn
TIMEZONE
P100 Powercard Plus 5 free games
The fun is in cinema finds!

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday March 11 2005

SINO ANG BABANGGA SA GINEBRA?
PBA
ABC iba tayo
2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
ASTIG!

Provided by: ClickTheCity.com
For more TV schedules:
1. Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.
2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Gatekeepers (5:10 PM)	Gundam Seed (5:35 PM)	The Road To Stardom	TV Patrol		Spirits	Krystala	Hiram	Save The Last Dance	Til Death Do Us Part	Search For A Star In A Million			Insider
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	PBA Game-Bol	PBA		PBA		Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Joyride	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knock Out	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin		Starstruck	Stairway To Heaven	Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberrys	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	Just For Laughs	Enterprise		Monk		Dead Zone		Newswatch Now	Adboard Golf		
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Mosconi Cup					IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
Solar		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Restol	Ozzy & Drix	Mucha Lucha!	The Sib Show	Stargate SG1		WWE Smackdown 1, 2, 3				WWE Velocity		Wow	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants		Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		What I Like About You	JKX	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News		Will & Grace		Iron Chef				Tonight Show With Jay Leno			
Cinema One		Hindi Ako Ander, Tanong Mo Kay Kumander				Drama Studio: Maalala Mo Kaya The Movie				Warfreak			Cinema One Presents: Review Night	Cine Tonight: Black Mask 2: City Of Masks (Premiere)				Batang Estero (Premiere)	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League			Barkada Nights				News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		Ravager				Cannon AXN Xtreme	Now See This	Samurai X	Samurai X	Andromeda (Season III)		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Rated X	Cold Squad		The Animal			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News		World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Castro				The Lost Fleet Of Santiago De Cuba		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Protecting The President		Inside The Pentagon	
Solar Sports		Copenhagen Masters, Jonassen vs. Xia		ATP Dubai Tennis C'ship '05 Quart Final	Sounds of the Finals			NBA Fan Favorite				In This Corner		NBA Game L.A. Lakers @ Dallas					GWS Ep.10-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest							Back To Basics		
HBO	Sin				Deadly Visions (4:20 PM)			I.Q.			Wishmaster: The Prophecy Fulfilled			The Devil's Own				National Security (10:50PM)	
Star Movies			Terror Peak (3:45 PM)				A Walk in the Clouds			Edward Scissorhands				The Grinch			The Touch (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Justice League Unlimited	Toon Pick	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Shaman King	The Looney Tunes Show		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Ed, Edd N Eddy	Megas XLR	Aqua Teen (11:15PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN		2005 Big East C'ship New York, NY USA				Goals!	2005 Big East C'ship New York, NY USA				World Tennis Masters '04		Sportscenter Asia	World Tennis Masters '04		Soccer FIFA Fever	Sportscenter Asia		
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	Ferngully: The Last Rainforest			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Me And Dad	
Cinemax		Above Suspicion			The Scorpion King			The Last Supper			Clockstoppers			The Job			The Assignment		
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	A Place Called Home				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		The Book Of Ruth			Five Days To Midnight		Judging Amy (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Junkyard Wars		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery Showcase		Crime Night	
MTV Philippines		Whatever Things	Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Most Wanted		MTV Classic (Ver 2)/Making the Video "50 Cents Candy Shop"	MTV Diyes		Newlyweds	Ba Seen @ MTV	Faking the Video	Laguna Beach	MTV Hits	MTV Screen	VH1 Video Collections			
Sports Plus			Pac10 Wildcard (2nd Pick) Nat'l					Italia Serie A				World Poker Tour ep 8 Parts				Inside the PGA	Ford C'ship Highlights		The Honda Classic Day1
EWTN	Does The Church Still Teach That	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Stations Of The Cross	Image Of God	Faith Factory	The Holy Rosary With Mother Angelica and the Nuns Of Our Lady Of Angels Monastery	Search And Rescue	Your Call	EWTN Gallery	Life on The Rock Encore		Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Defending Life	Daily Mass		Angelus (10:15PM)	Backstage	Father Corapi And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church	

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Sagot ba ang paghahanda ni Manny Pacquiao?
MILLION DOLLAR MANNY
Exclusive footage from Los Angeles!
Abangan! March 17, 10:30 n.g.
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INQ TV

SOME of the candidates who are expected to make judging difficult this year, during the press presentation at the Araneta Coliseum. JOAN BONDOC

23 vie for Bb. Pilipinas titles

By Armin Adina and Marinel R. Cruz

FROM 25, it's down to 23.

Two candidates in the Binibining Pilipinas pageant "voluntarily withdrew" last week because of "conflict" in their schedules, according to an official of Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc.

Contestants Gwenaelle "Gwen" Ruais and Angelique "Angel" Gustanski stopped attending pictorials and other functions sponsored by the BCPI early last week, said BCPI project coordinator Bobby Roca.

"They wouldn't answer our calls; they didn't show up for the events. It was difficult for us," Roca told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday.

Last week, Gwen abruptly left a photo session for the pageant, an insider said.

A French-Filipino model, Gwen is also a finalist in the ongoing MTV VJ Hunt. She reportedly asked to be photographed first, "but the pictorial did not start immediately so she left and did not return," the insider added.

But later in the week, Gwen showed up during the scheduled Charity Day at Fiesta Carnival in Cubao, Quezon City.

Angel backed out because she and Gwen were "close friends," said the insider.

On Tuesday, the 23 contestants were presented to the media at the posh Gateway Mall in Cubao. The pageant organizers decided not to replace Gwen in slot No. 13.

Among the most applauded was candidate No. 8, Carlene Aguilar. She was the first woman to be crowned Miss Earth Philippines in 2001 and one of the 10 finalists in the 2001 Miss Earth pageant held here. She also represented Manila in the 2003 Miss Chinese International pageant in Hong Kong, where she placed third.

"I joined Binibining Pilipinas because I would like to represent the country in the Miss Universe pageant, and this is the only pageant that would allow me to do that," said Carlene, 22, a stunner at 5'9".

Carlene added that she asked the permission of Carousel Productions, organizer of the Miss Philippines and the Miss Earth beauty contests, before enlisting for Binibining Pilipinas.

"They were disappointed," she admitted, "but they still allowed me."

Another standout is Precious Lara Quigaman,. who studied filmmaking in London and is now a freelance web writer. But she is one of the shortest candidates at 5'5½".

Joanna Rafbel Serrano first joined the pageant in 1999, at 17. She landed in the Top 10 and took home the "Most Beautiful Skin" award. Now 23, Rafbel is "more confident," having finished Communication and Media Studies at the Saint Benedict College in Las Piñas.

Ma. Michaela "Kyla" Padilla, a varsity swimmer of the De La Salle University, joined the Mutya ng Pilipinas and represented the country in a minor international pageant last year.

But several newcomers drew wild cheers from the Gateway audience, too. Among them were Gionna Cabrera, 5'9", and Allaine Asuncion, 5'7".

The tallest candidate is 5'10½" Marie May Paloma. She, too, received a long round of applause from the audience when she declared: "I work at the National Center for Mental Health."

Tough year

"The competition is very tough this year," said outgoing Binibining Pilipinas-World Karla Bautista, who finished in the Top 5 of Miss World. "They are all beautiful. I was at the screening and I could tell that a lot of the girls are witty."

The contest winners represent the country in the three most prestigious international pageants—Miss Universe, Miss World and Miss International.

"The pageant could open many doors for us to help others," said BPCI founder Stella Marquez Araneta. "These girls are our channels to reach out to the less fortunate."

The primary goal of the pageant is to raise funds for orphanages, indigent families and victims of calamities. The BPCI has been doing this for 42 years.

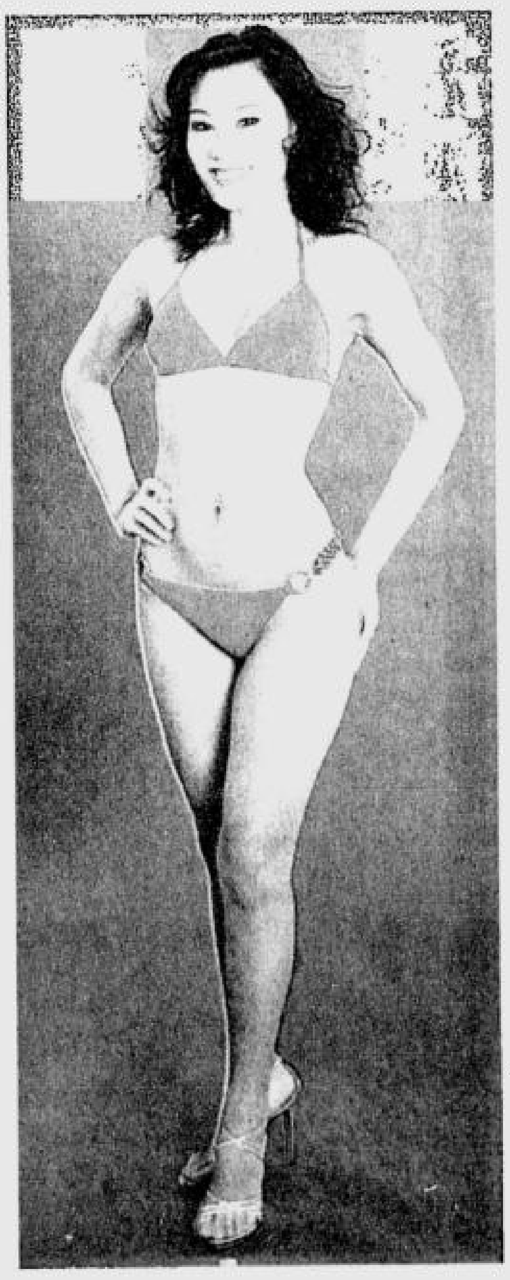
Araneta described this year's candidates as "nice," immediately adding that she has no favorites.

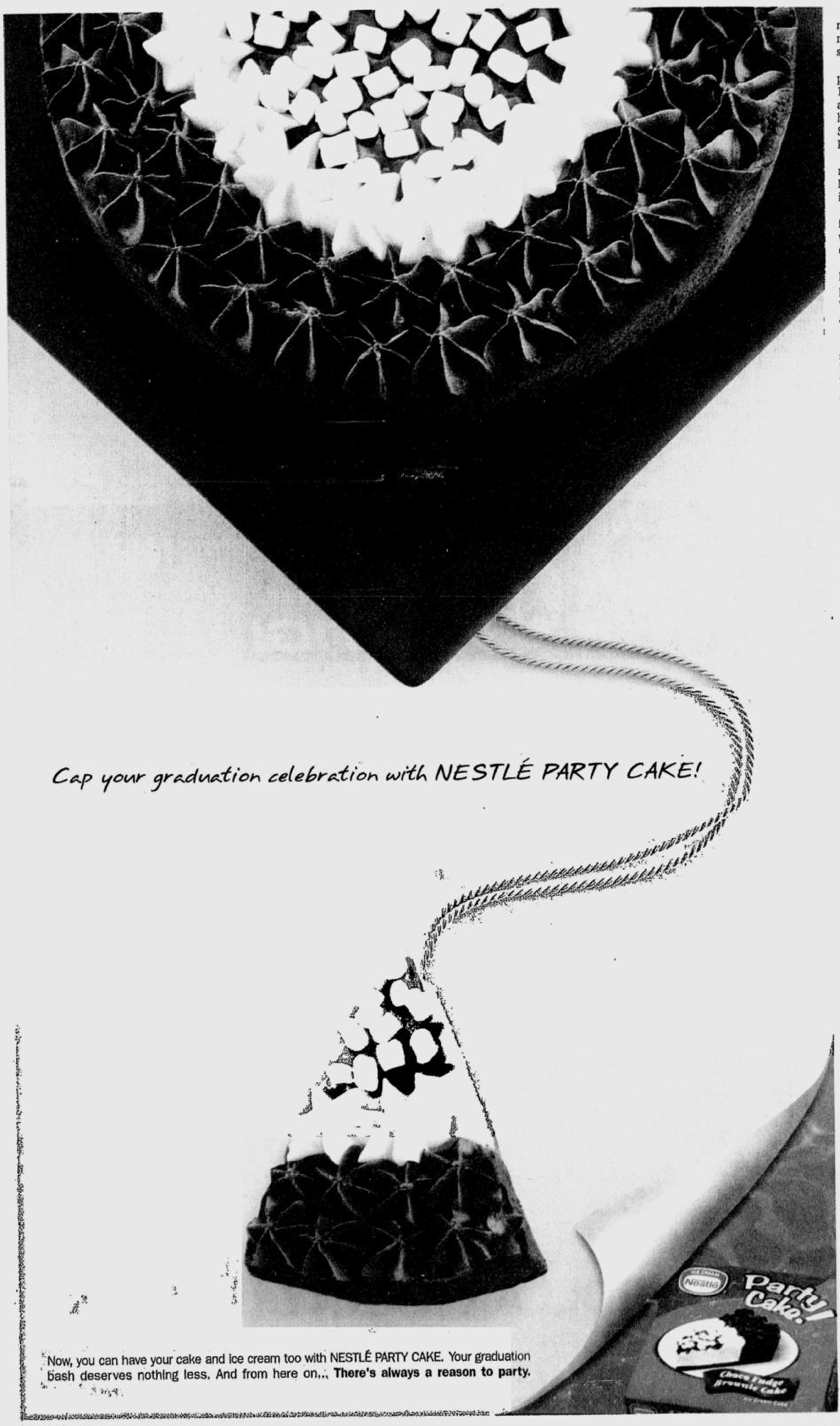
She said the candidates would be busy with "a lot of rehearsals" and a parade on Sunday, 4 p.m., around the Araneta Center.

Coronation night is set on March 19 at the Araneta Coliseum. Richard Gomez, Paolo Bediones and Richard Gutierrez will host the show, which will be telecast on GMA Channel 7 starting at 9:30.

"We're thinking of going for a fantasy theme for the show," said GMA Network Inc. program manager Bang Arespacochaga. "The girls will all look like goddesses."

Arespacochaga said the main performers will be John Jerome Hughes and Nyoy Volante and The Mannos.

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WITH Senate President Franklin Drilon

WITH SON, Sen. Bong Revilla

A birthday surprise

A roomful of souvenirs brings former Sen. Ramon Revilla close to tears

By Nini Valera

PLANT a tree, write a book and continue raising his children well.

These were three of the things that former action star and senator Ramon Revilla vowed to do when he celebrated his 78th birthday on Tuesday night in his home in Bacoor, Cavite.

Revilla, who was lionized by the masses for true-life roles in the movies like "Nardong Putik," "Tyagong Akyat," "Cavite Boy," said he could ask for nothing more, and that he would die happy even if that should come anytime soon.

"I am fulfilled," he said, speaking in Filipino.

The birthday bash was made more memorable by the opening of Revilla's memorabilia room. His children hid the project from him until the ribbon cutting that night.

Framed newspaper and magazine stories, movie posters, costumes and props and old photographs showing the former action star in his prime were among the souvenirs displayed.

Secret

"They kept this a secret from me," said Revilla. "I almost cried when I saw the room. Memories came back to me. I would have bawled if it weren't so embarrassing."

Revilla said he had really planned to build a museum in his old house in Imus.

"I hope that we can collect more items. There's a lot more we can gather. This is just a 10th of my life," he said, referring to the exhibit.

A senator until May 2004, Revilla was appointed head of the Public Estates Authority by Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo last year. He had worked at the Bureau of Customs for eight years, was an investigator for the National Bureau of Investigation for 10 years, a senator for 12 years, and a movie star for the longest time.

"That has extended his life," said Revilla's son, Bong, also an actor and now senator, referring to his father's appointment as PEA chief. "He's more industrious now than when he was a senator. He would be in his office Monday to Friday, from 10 a.m. to about 7 p.m. He's enjoying his job. Being given this job by the President was a big thing for my Dad."

The older Revilla said he hoped to serve his constituents longer and that he had asked God to give him more time to do that.

"Every year, I would ask God to give me more time," he said. "I always pray for that, and when He gives it to me, I would ask for more time on my next birthday. I never grow tired asking for an extension."

During interviews with television reporters on Tuesday night, Revilla joked about giving his favorite daughter, Andrea, the go-signal to get married.

"You are now 35, and I hope that you will find a man who will truly love you," he told his daughter, who is only 29. "But I would rather see you an old maid if the man hurts you and makes you cry."

Revilla said Andrea only had to tell him as soon as she found the man she would love.

"I have accepted that she will get married someday," he said. "As long as she tells me that she is in love with a man, I don't need to know who that man is for as long as she tells me that he's the one."

Unknown to Revilla, Andrea had long wanted to ask his permission to marry her longtime boyfriend Jun-Jun Ynares, son of Rizal governor Ito Ynares.

Big plan

"I am waiting for Bong to help me break the news to my Dad," Andrea told INQUIRER Entertainment.

She confessed that telling her father she would be getting married this year was a very hard thing to do.

"She is my Dad's favorite daughter," said Bong. "It will be hard for him to let her go. She takes care of him, prepares his food, lays out his clothes for him and goes with him to work."

Bong said they planned to break the news to their father during their trip to the US next week, when the elder Revilla goes for a medical checkup. (He has a heart condition and hypertension.) Bong said they also planned to watch Manny Paquiao's fight with Erick Morales for the featherweight title in Las Vegas.

Bong and Andrea are, Revilla's children by his second wife, the late Sena Mortel. Revilla has sired at least 80 children by different women.

Thanking 10,000 donors

"NO MATTER how long it takes, we will thank each and every person who trusted us with their donations and assistance," said Gina Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Foundation.

This, after her production team told her that more than 10,000 worldwide gave to "Sagip Kapamilya."

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. launched the "Sagip" telethon through its foundation and affiliates (dzMM, Regional Network Group, Studio 23, ANC and The Filipino Channel, or TFC) after four typhoons devastated more than 20 provinces last December.

Over 4,000 volunteers packed relief goods and distributed them to 85,000 affected families. The telethon raised more than P170 million in cash and pledges.

Each thank-you plug takes 30 seconds, according to Cielo Reyes, creative communications manager. "In that half-minute, we can mention only 30 names clearly."

It's been five weeks since the plugs started airing on TFC worldwide and on local ABS-CBN stations. But, as Lopez instructed, Reyes said, "We will carry on for as long as it takes."

Araneta Center Entertainment Guide

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HOSTAGE
12:00 / 2:30 / 5:00 / 7:30 / 10:00
THE FINAL CUT
12:10 / 2:20 / 4:30 / 6:40 / 8:50
HITCH
1:15 / 3:50 / 6:25 / 9:00
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
1:05 / 3:50 / 6:35 / 9:20
DOLBY DIGITAL

CURSED
12:35 / 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05 / 9:15
BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
CONSTANTINE
12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50
SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
1:30 / 3:55 / 6:20 / 8:45
DOLBY DIGITAL

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
❷ HOSTAGE
12:55 / 3:25 / 5:55 / 8:25
❸ CONSTANTINE
11:20 / 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40
❹ CURSED
11:30 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10
❺ MILLION DOLLAR BABY
11:45 / 2:30 / 5:15 / 8:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM SHOWS

NORAH JONES IN CONCERT
March 12, Saturday
BB. PILIPINAS GRAND CORONATION NIGHT
March 19 Saturday, 8pm
RIVERMAYA & KITCHIE NADAL LIVE!
April 16 Saturday
THE CASCADES: LIVE IN MANILA
April 15 Friday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS

STAR AWARDS	*See local tinseltown's biggest and brightest stars!* *March 12, Saturday, 6pm at Cinema 5 of Gateway Cineplex 10*
BINIBINIS AT ARANETA CENTER	*Parade of Beauties, March 13, Sunday, 3pm* *The parade starts at the Coliseum Parking near Aguinaldo Ave. and goes around the entire Center. With the participation of the Vintage Car Club of the Philippines*
COOL JAZZ COOL CLASSICS	*Free jazz performance by East Of The City band every Fridays & Saturdays at the Coliseum Circle*

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1 (DOLBY)	HITCH PG13
2 (DOLBY)	MILLION DOLLAR BABY PG13
3 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE R13
4 (DOLBY)	THE FINAL CUT PG13

PREMIERE

(DOLBY)	CURSED PG13

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1	HOSTAGE
2	SOON TO OPEN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5	RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 2000
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	HOSTAGE
3	BUKID AY BASA

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	RESERVED
2	RESERVED
3	CURSED
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	HOSTAGE
5	BUKID AY BASA

METROPOLIS Star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1	CURSED
2	BUKID AY BASA
3	CONSTANTINE
4	LET THE LOVE BEGIN
5 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
6	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG

Starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE
2	RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DTS)	HOSTAGE
2 (SDDS)	HITCH
3 (DTS)	LEMONY SNICKET'S
4 GOLD (DTS)	CONSTANTINE
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MILLION DOLLAR BABY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	CURSED
8	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
9	BUNSINSABA
10	MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Araneta Center CINEMA GUIDE
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HOSTAGE
THE FINAL CUT
HITCH
MILLION DOLLAR BABY
CURSED
BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
CONSTANTINE
LEMONY SNICKET'S

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	HOSTAGE
3	CONSTANTINE
4	CURSED
5	MILLION DOLLAR BABY

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK
2	MEET THE FOCKERS
3	SAKSI DRIVER
4	

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	SOON TO OPEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 (DTS EX)	BONSINSABA
4	RAISE YOUR VOICE

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 (DOLBY)	BONSINSABA
4 (DTS)	THE AVIATOR

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	CONSTANTINE
3 (DOLBY)	ALFIE
4 (DTS)	IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	CONSTANTINE
2	A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY)	MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 (DOLBY)	HOSTAGE
3 (DOLBY)	HITCH
4 (DOLBY)	CURSED

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BONSINSABA
2 (DTS)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
3 (DOLBY)	HITCH
4	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2 (DOLBY)	HITCH
3 (DTS)	PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
4	BONSINSABA

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	CONSTANTINE
3 (DOLBY)	IT'S ALL ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	SECRETARY
3 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE
4 (DTS)	LEMONY SNICKETS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1	CONSTANTINE
2	INFECTION
3 (DOLBY)	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2	BUKID AY BASA
3	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
4 (DTS)	BUNNY GUARD

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	HITCH
2	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
3 (DTS)	BUNSINSABA
4	NIGHT JOB
5	MASK-2 SON OF THE MASK

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	NIGHT JOB
2	ASSAULT ON PRECINT 13
3 (DTS)	LEMONY SNICKETS
4 (DOLBY)	CONSTANTINE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	INFECTION
3	NIGHT JOB
4	THE AVIATOR

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1	BIRHEN NG MANAOAG
2	BUKID AY BASA

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2:00 pm
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2:30 pm
2:45 pm
3:00 pm
3:15 pm
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3:45 pm
4:00 pm
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> 'Awards are welcome, but I wouldn't kill myself for one'

IN BERLIN, with colleague Jaime Fabregas, right, for a special screening of "Jose Rizal."

Life as musical scorer is 'funny, crazy'

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

NONONG Buencamino, award-winning film scorer, has been in the profession for 29 years and received at least 27 awards from various groups.

The latest of these citations is for his work in "Panaghoy Sa Suba," a Golden Screen Award from the Entertainment Press Society, last week. (For the same movie, Buencamino is nominated for a Star Award from the Philippine Movie Press Club tomorrow.)

His other prestigious projects include "Bagong Buwan," "Muro Ami," "Jose Rizal," "Dekada 70" and "Tanging Yaman."

He has worked on a total of 270 films as musical director, plus another 50 in collaboration with Jimmy Fabregas as arranger, orchestrator and contributing composer.

"Getting an award is fun when it happens," Nonong says. "To paraphrase Vangelis, one of the pioneers in modern synthesizer scores, 'There is nothing wrong with winning awards. What's wrong is when one works in order to win them.' I subscribe to this."

What do awards mean to you?

I used to aspire for awards as film composer and get thrilled winning them. But that didn't last. Eventually, one comes to realize that there are far more meaningful things. When I see the audience reacting positively to the stuff that I did, that's as good as any award I can get.

[Foremost among the] things that matter to me are the many directors that have trusted me, knowing they can sleep well while I work on their films to the best of my ability. There are times when I refuse to attend an awards night. When you see me in one, I am there only to show my support for a colleague. Awards are always welcome, but I wouldn't kill myself for one.

From the point of view of film scorers, which film directors are the easiest to work with?

The easiest, of course, are those who do not know a single thing about music, and leave it up to you to decide. It could also be easy to work with those who are knowledgeable about music, because at least you're speaking the same language. The most difficult ones to work with are those who do not have a single ounce of musicality in their system, but pretend they're like, descendants of Beethoven or Wagner.

Which films are your best so far?

It's like asking me to choose among my children. Let's just say there are certain films that audiences find more memorable than others, and the music just might have contributed to it. "Tanging Yaman," "American Adobo," "Jose Rizal," "MuroAmi" and "Bagong Buwan," "Nag-Iisang Bituin," "Sa Aking mga Kamay" ... to name a few.

Is your output affected by budget?

In any musical production—film scoring, advertising, concerts, operas, albums—there will necessarily be a negotiation on the budget. The film composer should always be ready to find the middle ground between his concept and the budget. If that's not possible, he's free not to accept the job. But once he accepts it, the budget constraint should not affect his dedication, passion and quality of creative output.

What makes a good film scorer?

A fairly tight musical foundation makes a good scorer. He should also be sensitive to the needs of every creative department—filmmaking is probably the most collaborative artistic process for a single work. He should be able to hit the mark with his director. If he is unable to get a tight grasp of his director's vision, tempo, intention and feelings—the score will most probably be a failure. Finally, a good film composer connects with his audience.

What makes a bad score?

Believe me, you'll know it when you hear one.

How does a scorer cope with having to accept a job simply because he needs the bread?

It's decent money as long as it doesn't require frontal nudity, feeds his children and sends him to school.

What are your most ridiculous moments as film scorer?

Having to deal with a creative committee that refused to discuss their points with you face to face. They just send you a computer printout of their comments.

Do film scorers have to be excellent musicians?

It helps a lot, because it means you will innately possess a high standard of quality as far as music is concerned.

From your experience, which film producers should be avoided?

Two kinds: the swindlers (*manunuba*) and those who have no regard for human relations. They cause sleepless nights and constipation.

How would you sum up your life as film scorer?

For the longest time, it has fed my family and it has fed my soul. I'd like to think that it filled the hearts of many audiences, too. It's a crazy, funny life.

FRANCES CONROY

MICHAEL C. HALL and Peter Krause

'Six Feet Under,' life looks normal

LIFE looks pretty okay for the Fisher family. Newly married Ruth Fisher (Frances Conroy) and George (James Cromwell) are deliriously honeymooning. David (Michael C. Hall) and Keith (Mathew St. Patrick) decide to stick together. Even the anti-social Claire (Lauren Ambrose) seems to find her footing. But Nate (Peter Krause) begins a dangerous spiral into depression after his wife Lisa's (Lili Taylor) body is found, an apparent suicide. Meanwhile, Rico (Freddy Rodriguez) grapples with marital problems as he hooks up with a stripper.

They're back in the fourth season of HBO's "Six Feet Under," starting March 29, 10 p.m. Tuesdays. Guest stars to look out for include returning Kathy Bates, Joanna Cassidy, Patricia Clarkson, Ben Foster, Richard Jenkins, Peter Macdissi, Justina Machado, Justin Theroux, and Rainn Wilson, plus Ellen DeGeneres, Veronica Cartwright and Michelle Trachtenberg, and Heather Graham-lookalike Mena Suvari joining the cast as Claire's new friend, a punk-rock performance artist. Says Suvari of joining the cast: "It's so much fun to be around so much dysfunction."

SHANG CINEPLEX

① HITCH
MTRCB: PG-13
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 LMF

② MILLION DOLLAR BABY
MTRCB. PG-13
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00 LMF

③ HOSTAGE
MTRCB R-13
11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 LMF

④ THE FINAL CUT
MTRCB. PG-13
12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00 LMF

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7:55 / 9:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 11:35 END
☎ 633-8976

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8:15 / 10:35 LFS / 11:00 LMF / 1:20 END
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9:30 LMF / 12:00 END
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1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 CURSED
3 HOSTAGE
4 CONSTANTINE
5 THE FINAL CUT
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7 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
8 HITCH
9 SON OF THE MASK
10 RESERVED
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 LET THE LOVE BEGIN
2 DREAMBOY
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 CONSTANTINE
5 HITCH
6 BUNSHINSABA
7 HOSTAGE
8 SON OF THE MASK
9 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
10 INFECTION
11 CURSED
12 THE AVIATOR

sm city north edsa
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 THE FINAL CUT
4 CONSTANTINE
5 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
6 CURSED
7 HITCH
8 HOSTAGE

sm city manila
1 HITCH
2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
3 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE smcinemaexclusive
4 THE AVIATOR
5 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
6 CONSATNTINE
7 THE FINAL CUT
8 HOSTAGE
9 SON OF THE MASK
10 INFECTION
11 CURSED
12 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest

sm city sta. mesa
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
5 HOSTAGE
6 SON OF THE MASK
7 CONSTANTINE
8 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
9 HITCH
10 CURSED

sm city southmall
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
2 CONSTANTINE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 THE AVIATOR
6 SON OF THE MASK
7 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
8 HOSTAGE
9 HITCH
10 CURSED

sm city bicutan
1 HOSTAGE
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 CURSED

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm supercenter sucat
1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
2 CURSED
3 HOSTAGE
4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 SON OF THE MASK
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
3 CONSTANTINE
4 HITCH
5 BUNSHINSABA
6 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest

sm city baguio
1 THE AVIATOR
2 CONSTANTINE
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city batangas
1 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
2 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
3 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
4 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

sm city dasmariñas
1 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
2 HITCH
3 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
4 SON OF THE MASK

sm city marilao
1 HITCH
2 CONSTANTINE
3 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest
4 THE AVIATOR

sm city bacoor
1 BUNSHINSABA
2 SON OF THE MASK
3 HOSTAGE
4 HITCH
5 CONSTANTINE
6 CURSED
7 THE AVIATOR
8 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest

sm city lucena
1 CONSTANTINE
2 GOSPEL OF JOHN smmoviefest
3 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
4 BIRHEN NG MANAOAG smmoviefest

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 THE AVIATOR
2 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 CONSTANTINE
6 INFECTION
7 SON OF THE MASK
8 HOSTAGE

sm city iloilo
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
2 RESERVED
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 SON OF THE MASK
5 CONSTANTINE
6 INFECTION
7 RESERVED
8 ALFIE

sm city davao
1 ASSAULT ON PRECINCT 13
2 INFECTION
3 LEMONY SNICKET'S A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS
4 FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX
5 LITTLE BLACK BOOK smcinemaexclusive
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sm city cagayan de oro
1 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
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ENTERTAINMENT

JIMMY BONDOC, Kuh Ledesma and Noel Cabangon

Kuh, Noel and Jimmy unplugged

By Marinel R. Cruz

"I'VE worked with Nora and I found her to be very professional. I just hope she would prioritize the things she needs to do, because she has a name to protect."

Kuh Ledesma was talking about Nora Aunor, with whom she performed last year while touring the show, "Power of Two" in the United States and Australia.

The Superstar, now in the US, has been the subject of several negative write-ups, one of which said she was hooked on gambling. Another report said Nora never showed up for some shows she had scheduled.

Nora's manager, Nory Sayo, has denied all the reports.

"She has plans that I don't understand. But that's her business," said Kuh. "I think it's better for people to stop putting down others. The more we help each other, the better for all of us."

She added: "Same goes for the on-going word war between the talents of the two rival networks (ABS-CBN and GMA 7). Bickering should not be part of how we work."

Kuh is one of the hosts of the Sunday noontime show "ASAP Mania" on ABS-CBN.

Bad example

"You don't want to become a bad example for other people by engaging in a word war with your colleagues," she said. "I know this will end eventually."

Hosting "ASAP Mania" with "young stars and other superstars" teaches her humility, Kuh said.

"I always have to be at my best. There are so many good young performers now. You don't want to become too complacent," she explained. "I also learned how to be a team player."

Kuh shares hosting chores with Gary Valenciano, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Martin Nievera, Piolo Pascual and Vina Morales, among others.

"Agreeing to host a noontime show was not difficult [for me]. I believe in accepting whatever God gives. If I could make God known to more people through my work, then I would," she said. "I have a lot of work, but I never complain."

New series

Kuh has put together "Kuh Ledesma Presents: Unplugged Masters Sing Stevie Wonder, James Taylor and More," a two-weekend series ongoing tonight and tomorrow, and then ends March 18 and 19 at the Captain's Bar of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati.

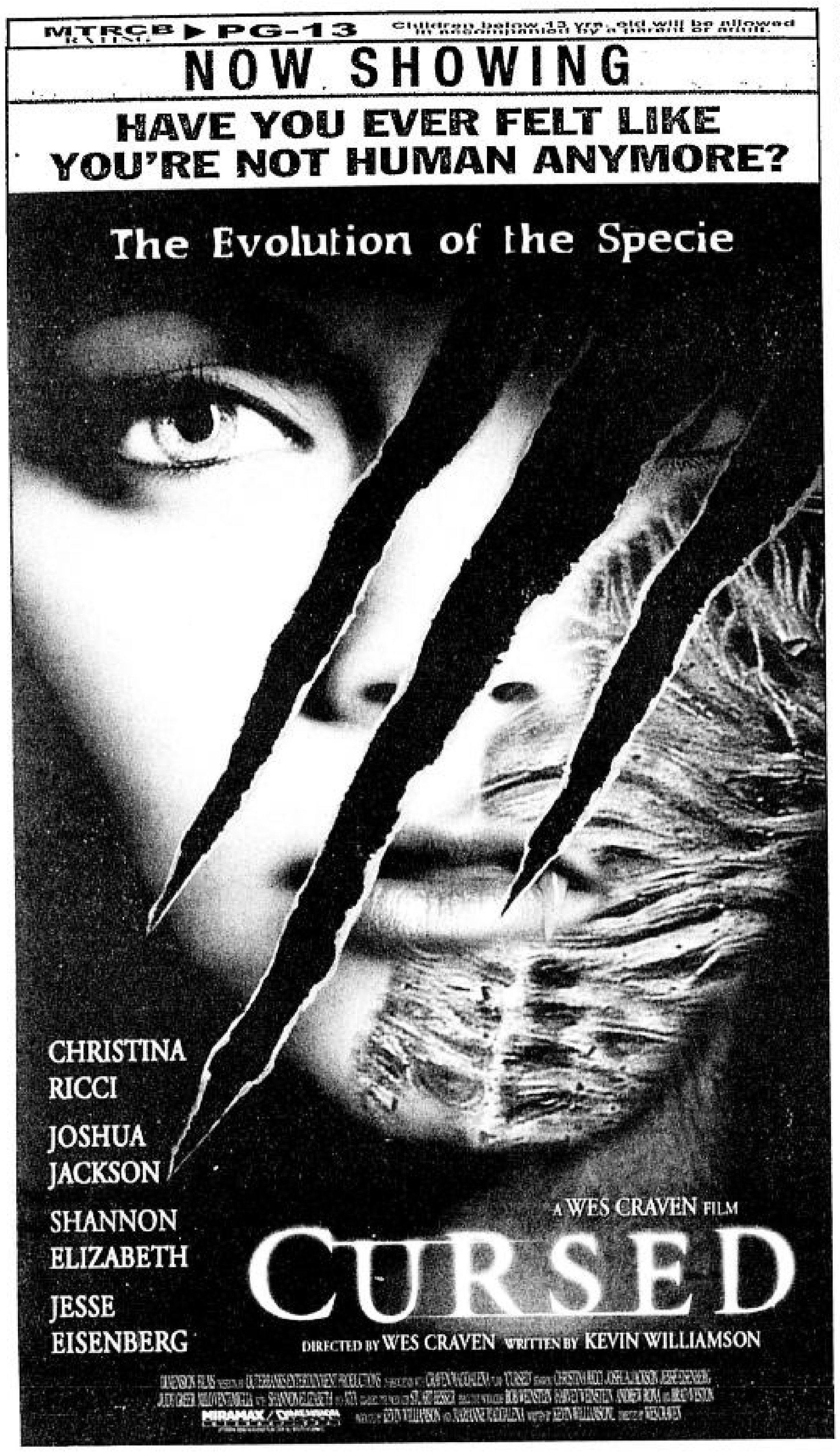
She is performing with Jimmy Bondoc and Noel Cabangon, whom she described as "two of today's top acoustic artists."

"It'll be a great show," said Noel. "Kuh is very good. I felt honored that she picked me, given the fact that she is one of the most respected artists in the country."

Jimmy, who worked with Kuh last year, said he was excited about "Unplugged."

"We were with Paolo Santos and Nina [in last year's show]. I think the show even won a Best Live Performance Award. But it was very segmented, with no real interaction among the artists," he recalled. "Now we will perform *together*. I hope to squeeze in some of my songs."

The show is the second part of Kuh's yearlong series at the Captain's Bar. The series features different artists and concepts each month.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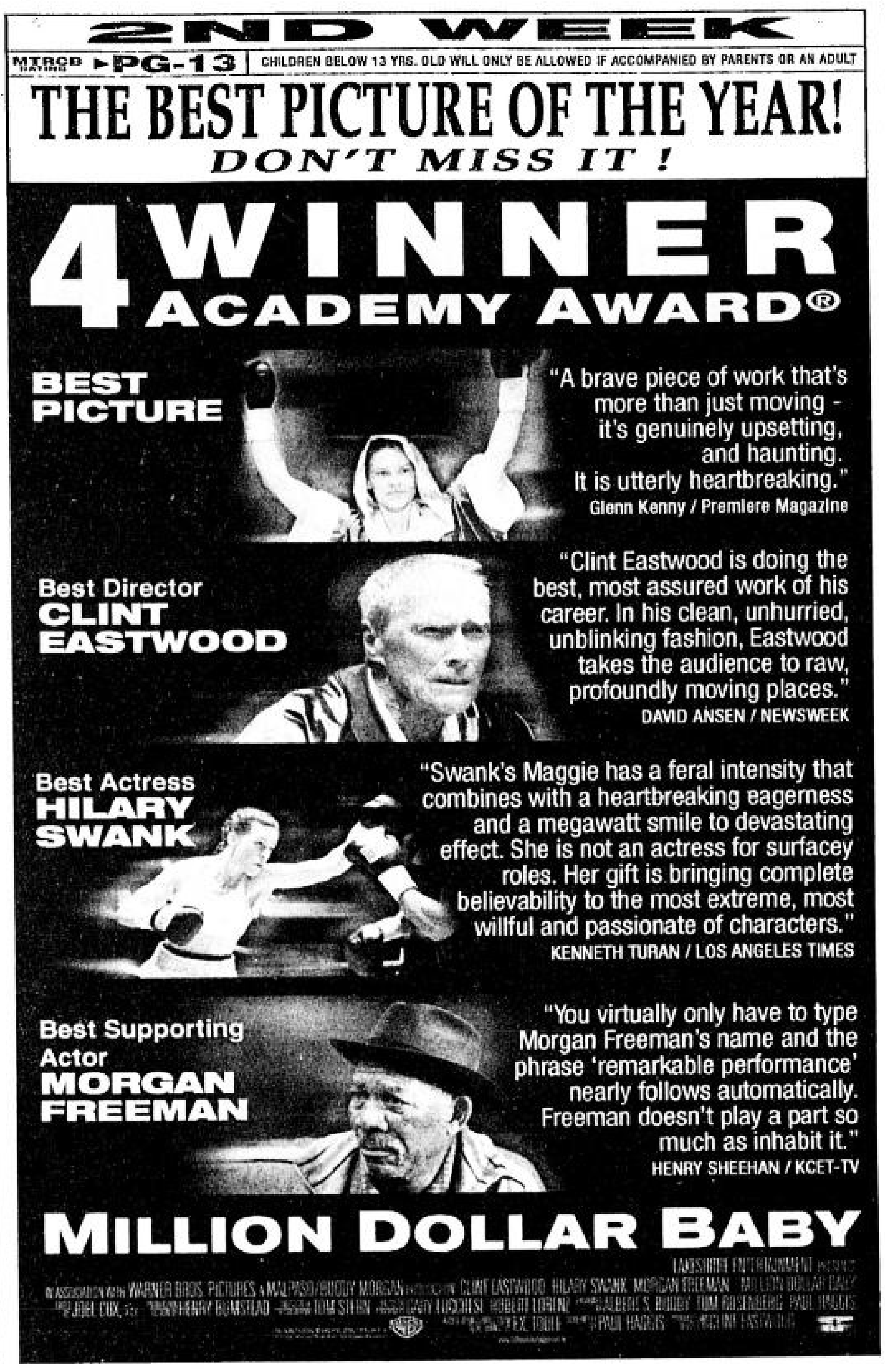
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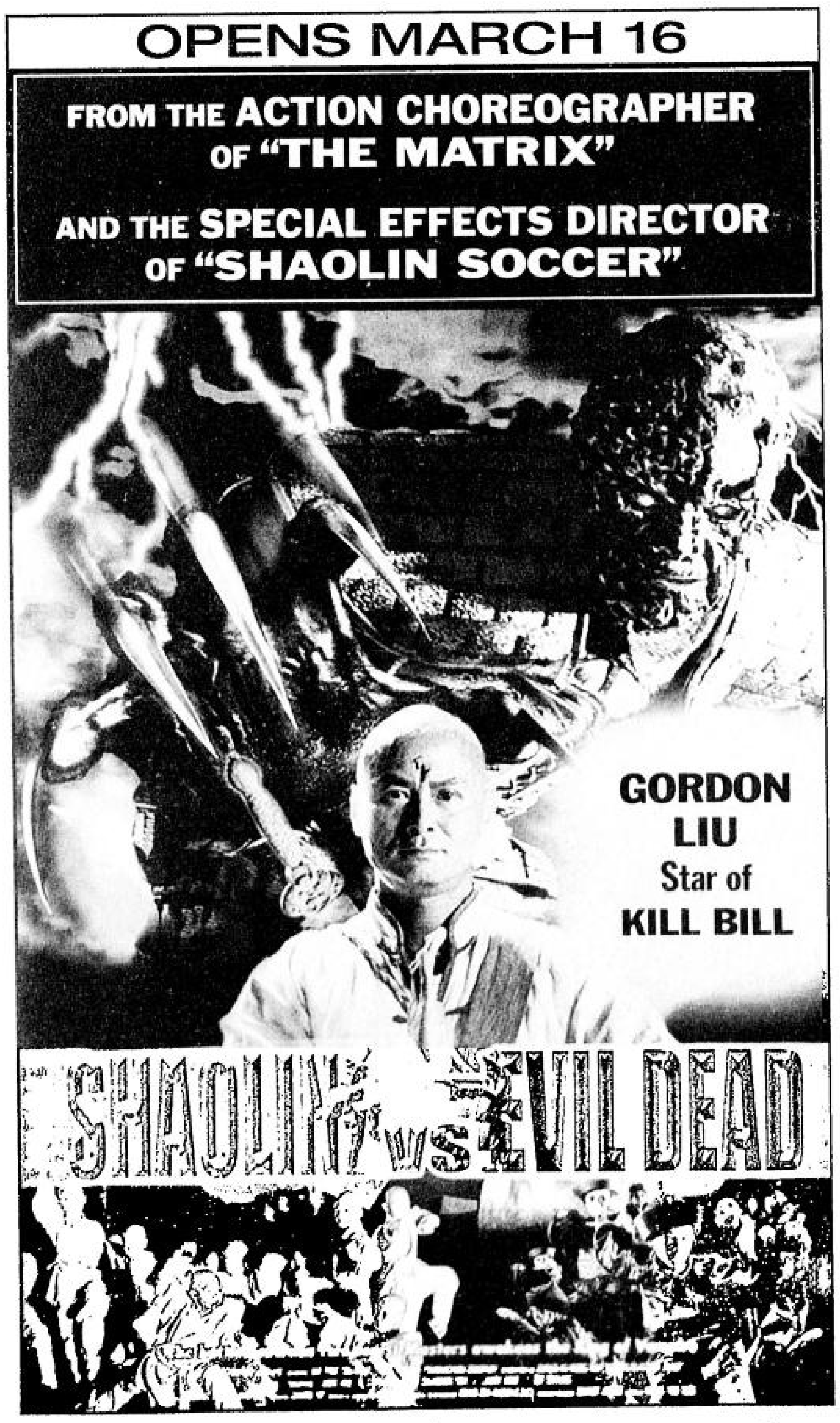
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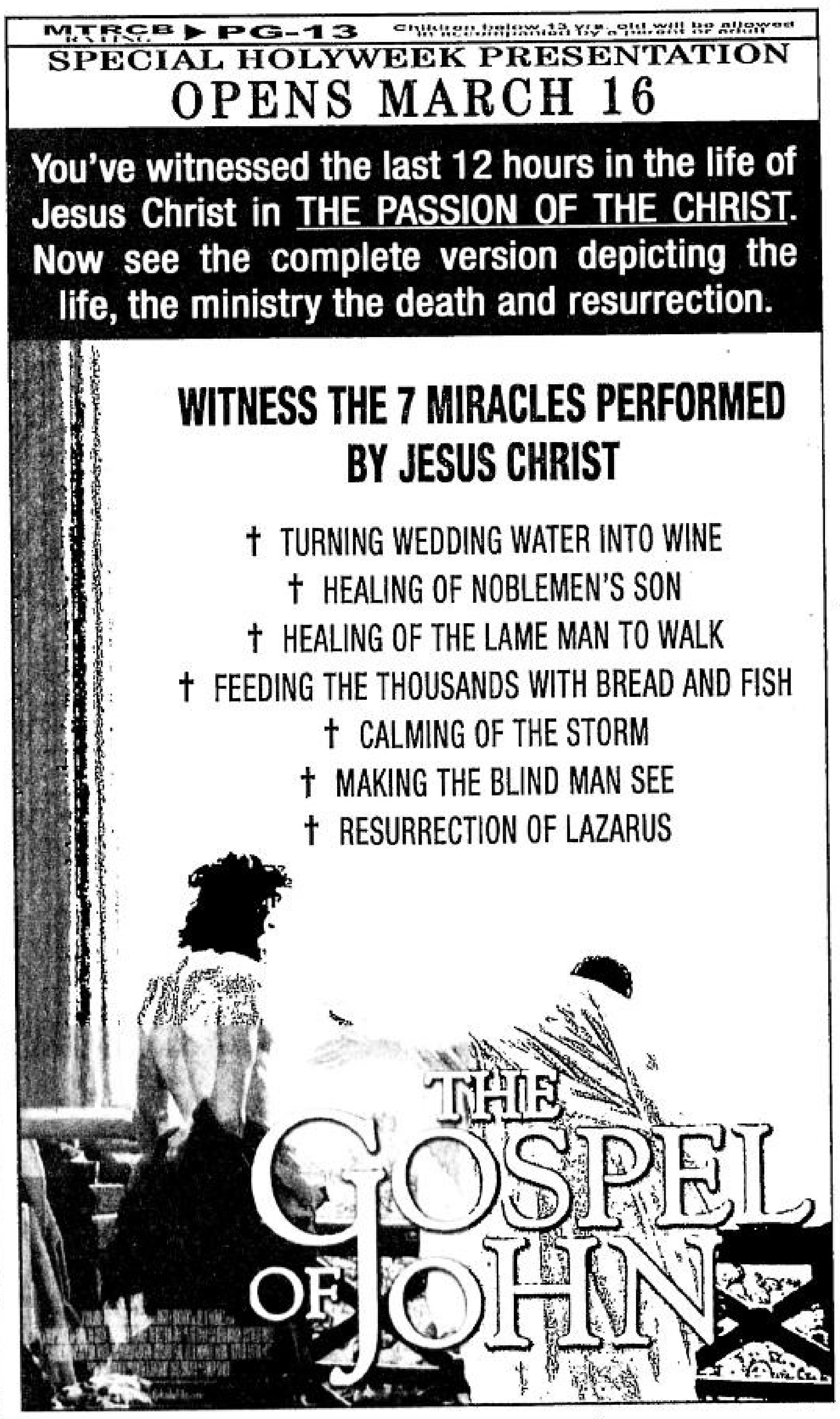
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Editor **Raul O. Marcelo**
Assistant Editor **Corrie S. Narisma**

Peso continues rally, hits 54.15:$1

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday rallied to a high of 54.15 to $1, its strongest intra-day level since July 2003, on expectations that the initial public offerings of SM Investment Corp. and the Manila Water Co. would draw huge foreign capital inflow.

However, increased demand for dollars in the latter part of yesterday's trading pulled the peso down slightly to close at 54.25:$1.

Yesterday's close was 16 centavos better than Wednesday's finish of 54.41$1. Trading volume at the Philippine Dealing System reached $466.5 million.

In an interview at the sidelines of the Euromoney Philippine Investment Conference in Cebu, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the peso might even surge to 52:$1 once the government was able to put in place more fiscal reforms.

"The peso is buoyed primarily by expectations of inflows from IPOs," Tetangco said. "Secondly, you still have a weak (US) dollar."

Tetangco said that when the peso hit the intra-day low of 54.15 yesterday, it spurred demand from corporations. And as demand rose, the peso slightly dropped to close at 54.25:$1.

"They saw that it was a good time to buy (dollars), so the oil and manufacturing sectors started buying," he noted.

The market expects SMIC to raise as much as $500 million and Manila Water, some $88 million.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, agreed that the peso could rally further to 52:$1 within this year if all the key policies and tax laws were put in place.

"I think it (P52:$1) is a realistic target but a lot of things can happen along the way. In the near term, I think the peso will trade at a range of 54-54.50 to $1," Hilado said.

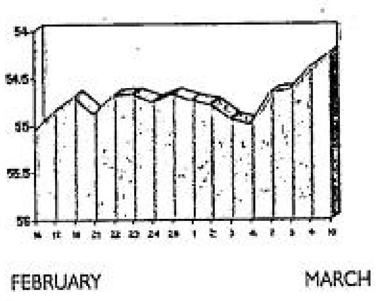
Hilado said the 54-level would be difficult to breach if the country would rely solely on inflows to the stock market, which could be volatile.

PESO/ B5

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P54.25 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 10, 2005

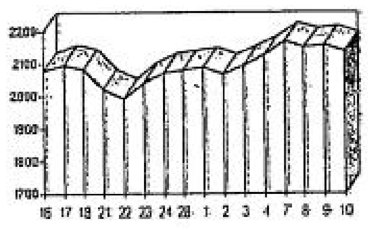
¥103.88 = $1
As of 5 p.m., March 10, 2005

GOLD: $442.10-442.60
per ounce Hong Kong, March 10, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares end lower on oil price woes

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARES yesterday closed lower, spooked by the continuing rise in world crude prices, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 19.72 points, or 0.9 percent, at 2,137.42, after Wednesday's 0.4 percent gain.

"The concern over high oil prices has set the stage for profit-taking in the market," said Citiseconline.com investment analyst Mark Alan Canizares.

The commercial-industrial, all shares, and property subindexes finished lower, while the banks and financial services, mining, and oil subindicators ended higher.

Decliners led gainers 69 to 34, while 51 stocks were unchanged.

Blue-chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. was the most actively traded stock, down 0.7 percent at P1,470 on profit taking, as investors shrugged off the 0.9 percent gain made by its American depositary receipts Wednesday.

Also dragging down the market were Ayala Corp., off 1.2 percent at P8.30; Benpres, down 5.8 percent at P1.30, and SM Prime, lower by 2.2 percent at P8.80.

US crude oil for April delivery Wednesday touched an intraday high of $55.65 (41.48 euro) a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, two cents short of the record set on Oct. 25, 2004. The contract settled at $54.77 (40.92 euro) at the end of the session. **AP**

Jan. exports rebound, post 15.4% growth

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports bounced back in January, rising 15.4 percent from year-ago on the back of strong demand for electronics and garments.

The National Statistics Office yesterday said export earnings in January hit $3.2 billion, up from $2.84 billion in the same month last year.

Compared with the December figures, exports were up 2.9 percent. December exports grew 2.9 percent from a year earlier after rising 19.5 percent in November.

The NSO said January marked the 14th consecutive month that exports posted gains and the fifth month since December 2003 that exports showed a double-digit increase.

The upturn in January was attributed largely to electronics exports, which rose 12.8 percent year-on-year to $2.18 billion or 66.3 percent.

Apparel and clothing accessories remained the second largest contributors with $213.2 million, up 34.4 percent from year-ago.

Economists earlier projected that the global economy was facing moderate growth this year as it was expected to absorb the impact of oil price hikes and an environment of increasing interest rates.

"But it appears now that the global economy has been more resilient than anticipated," said Scholastica Cororaton, head of the policy and planning division of the National Economic and Development Authority.

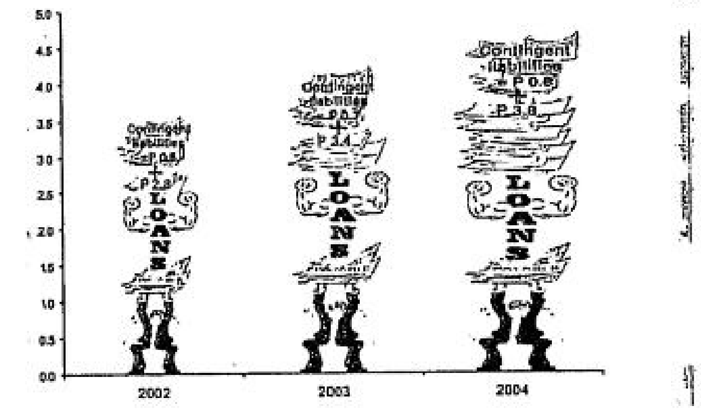
JAN/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

RP outstanding debt

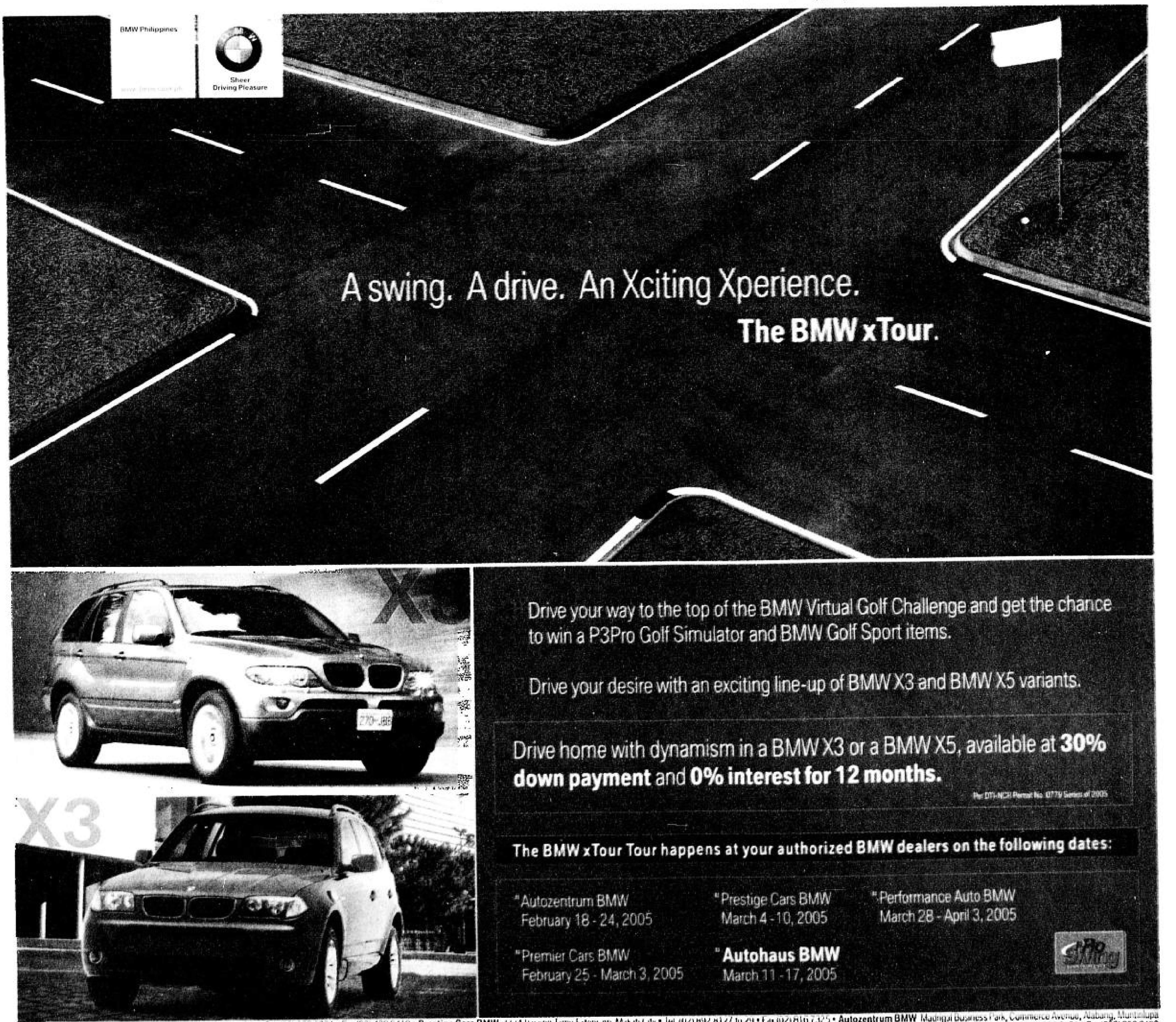
(2002 to 2004, in trillion pesos)



Sources: Bureau of Treasury

AS OF THE END of 2004, the national government's debt climbed to P3.81 trillion in 2004 from P3.36 trillion in 2003. Including contingent debts or debts incurred by state-owned corporations covered by government guarantees, the total debt last year reached P4.63 trillion.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research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Gov't to limit foreign borrowings to $4B

By Doris C. Dumlao

MACTAN, Cebu—The national government will limit its foreign commercial borrowings this year up to only $4 billion and consider a fresh bond issuance only if an acceptable value-added tax (VAT) package were in place by April.

In an interview yesterday at the sidelines of a Euromoney Philippine Investment Conference, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said he would stick to a 40-60 borrowing mix in favor of domestic borrowings.

Purisima, who assumed office in mid-February, said he was not going to revise the funding mix adopted by his predecessor until April, when there would already be better indications of the country's fiscal direction.

"By April, we'll make a decision. Obviously, I'd like to see where we will be particularly on the issue of VAT measure," Purisima said.

He said the government might have an opportunity to tap the global bond market again once an acceptable VAT package was passed by Congress.

But Purisima shrugged off expectations from global rating agency Standard & Poor's that the government might have to raise as much as $7 billion (P401 billion) from commercial borrowings this year.

"I'm still sticking to the $4 billion target until I review it in April," Purisima said.

The new medium and long-term (MLT) commercial sovereign borrowings expected for 2005 by S&P—which downgraded the country's long-term credit rating by one notch in January—are higher than the public sector debts contracted in the last two years.

In 2004, S&P estimated that the Philippines had incurred $6.7 billion or P373.9 billion in new commercial MLT sovereign debts compared to $5.7 billion contracted in 2003.

"Net new borrowing needs are low as government deficits are falling," S&P said in its latest outlook on sovereign issuance for the Asia-Pacific region. "However, key government corporations continue to lose money and require cash injections."

MLT borrowings refer to debt issued with an initial maturity of greater than one year.

Purisima said the government had "a negative carry," which meant it was spending less than the proceeds from its borrowings.

"We have too much cash," he said.

But if it could borrow at a tighter spread (over comparable US Treasuries) he said the government would grab the opportunity to tap the global bond market again.

Singapore firm, Metro Alliance plan to reopen petrochem plant

By Abigail L. Ho

SINGAPORE firm Pan Pacific Capital Advisors Pte Ltd. and Metro Alliance Holdings and Equities Corp. yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to jointly undertake the re-commissioning of the Bataan polyethylene plant.

The MOU contains the basis terms of reference governing the funding of the re-commissioning of the Metro Alliance-owned petrochemical facility.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Department of Energy quoted Metro Alliance as saying that the initial funding from the partnership would cover not only the cost of re-commissioning the plant but would also finance the purchase of start-up feedstock to prepare the facility for operations.

"The partnership between Metro Alliance and Pan Pacific is a big boost in reviving the country's petrochemical industry ... We have high hopes we can pull this through," Energy Secretary Vincent Perez said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last year ordered PNOC Petrochemical Development Corp. to revisit and review plans of setting up the first naphtha cracker plant in the country, starting with the revival of the midstream petrochemical industry.

The Bataan polyethylene plant has a rated capacity of 275,000 metric tons per year (MTPY) with enough room for future capacity expansion.

The facility uses the renowned BP innovene gas phase process, which entails the processing of the polyethylene resin for distribution to local plastic producers.

It was decommissioned in 2003, before it was acquired by Metro Alliance last year through a debt and equity purchase from the consortium of the United Kingdom's British Petroleum, Malaysia's Petronas and Japan's Sumitomo.

William Gatchalian is a major shareholder in Metro Alliance.

Jan. exports . . .

From page B1

She said strengthened economic activities in major export destinations—such as the United States, China and Japan—helped prop up demand for Philippine products.

Semiconductor products grew by 25.7 percent to $1.59 billion from only $1.263 billion.

"This was in line with the growth in sales worldwide, which, according to the United States Semiconductor Industry Alliance, reached 17.5 percent year-on-year in January," explained Economic Planning Secretary and Neda Director General Romulo Neri in a statement.

Other electronic products that posted growth in earnings were: control and instrumentation, 813.3 percent; telecommunication, 373.7 percent; consumer electronics, 7.4 percent; office equipment, 4.5 percent; and automotive electronics, 2 percent.

Cororaton said the growth in garments exports was an indication that the Philippines remained competitive in this product line despite the lifting of the quota system this year. Concerns about a possible slowdown in garments exports were raised earlier because the Philippines was a major beneficiary of the quota system.

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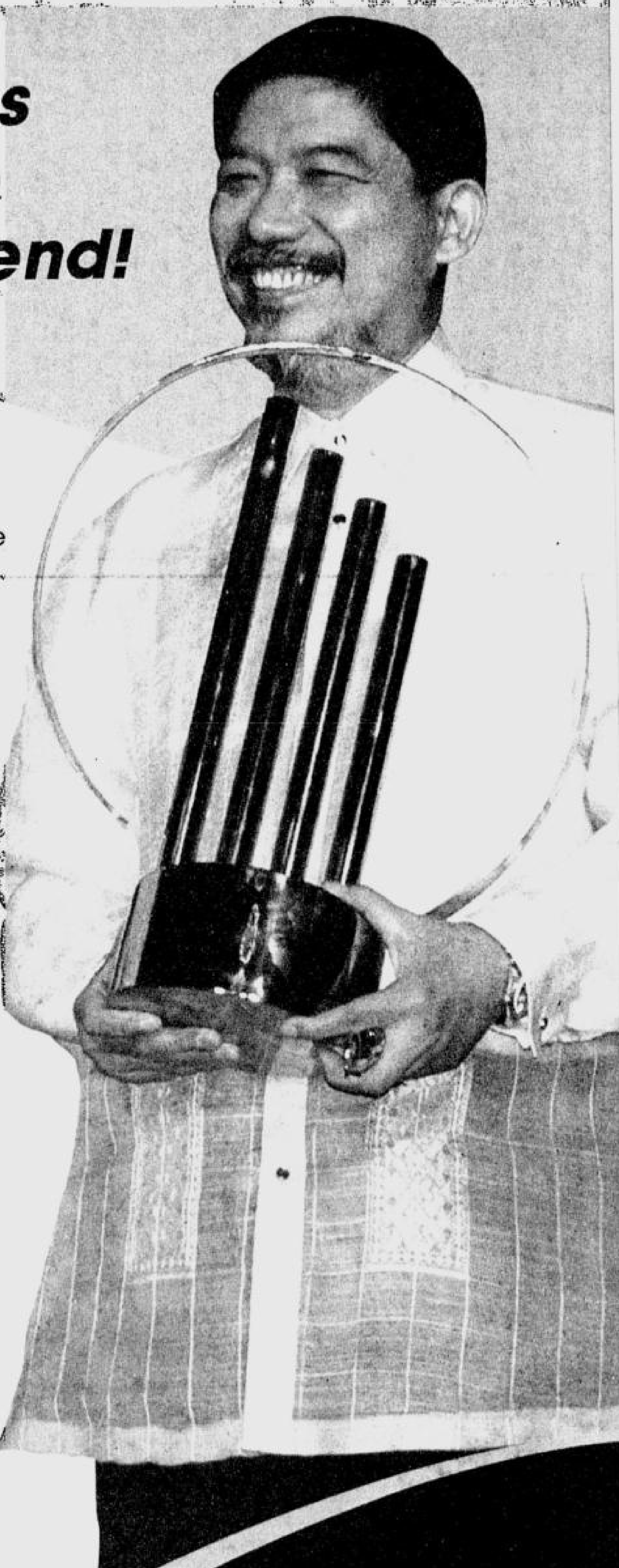

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COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

A TWIN "25/8" unlimited call and text plan will be launched today by Smart in trademark tri-media blitz to counter similar plans earlier launched by Globe and Sun.

The 25/8 promo is apparently a mischievous reference to Sun's 24/7, which launched the first unlimited call and text plan late last year.

Smart marketing brains Anastacio Martirez is confident that the 25/8 plan is superior to the competition since the telecom leader has allocated a dedicated, separate network to handle the expected surge of both voice calls and text messages and, at the same time, protect the network quality for the post-paid subscriber base.

For P115, any Smart-branded prepaid subscriber can make unlimited phone calls to any Smart phone for 10 days, even to those overseas. A cheaper P60 plan would offer unlimited texting, but no free phone calls, for six days.

The twin plan is also available to post-paid subscribers as an extra service.

In contrast, Sun offers a P100/unlimited phone and text plan that is good for seven days, while Globe offers a P300/30-day plan, also for unlimited phone and text service.

Smart, in separating the phone and text plans, thinks it is counter-intuitive for subscribers to still type and send short text messages when they can make unlimited phone calls any time.

The small print is that 25/8 subscribers would be told upon sign-up that the phone calls would be limited to five minutes each, apparently to ensure that the network would not collapse with the expected *telebabad* surge, as what apparently had happened to Sun, especially during peak hours.

Smart's various brands have a combined subscriber base of 20 million, as against Sun's 1.3 million, and to ensure consistent service, 25/8 subscribers have to text first the number they would want to call, with the computerized network calling back after routing the call request through the pre-paid network to establish the connection.

Martirez said Smart was simply responding to market's demand for "bucket pricing," where subscribers who want better, instant connection, may pay for premium service like business-class passengers.

"Those who are willing to queue and pay less may opt for the economy class," he said.

The GMA telenovela

THE JIMENEZ wing of the GMA Network triumvirate sent a statement to clarify certain points raised in Wednesday's column, "Now showing: Family feud on GMA 7."

"My father (former GMA chair Menardo Jimenez) was not ousted but resigned/retired since he was already 68 at that time," past the mandatory retirement age of 65, wrote Joel Marcelo Jimenez, a GMA director.

The Jimenezes own 35 percent, not 30 as earlier reported, of the radio-TV network, like the Duavits. The balance, and smallest block, of 30 percent is controlled by GMA Network chair/president/CEO Felipe Gozon, whose elder sister, Carolina, is married to Menardo Jimenez.

The elder Jimenez invested in Franchise One, the theater-mall venture with former Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Pardo, ex-Revenue Commissioner Dakila Fonacier and Channel 5 owner Antonio Cojuangco Jr. upon the group's invitation. He sits in the board, but is not involved in operations, the son said.

It was Joel Marcelo and his mother, Carolina Gozon-Jimenez, not Joel's sister, Laura, who were at the last board meeting when they presented a letter questioning the structure of the planned IPO offering.

"We did not have a last-minute change of mind. We never agreed to it," the young Jimenez said, referring to the shareholder agreement.

"It would be interesting to know that if the tables were turned (and chairman Gozon is not controlling the network), if chairman Gozon would sign [it]," Jimenez said of his uncle. "I honestly doubt it."

Despite the misgivings, the Jimenezes maintain that they are in still in favor of pursuing the listing of the country's most profitable network.

"We do think that the current management is doing an excellent job in running the station," the Jimenez statement said. "We have no plans of taking over the management of the company, pre- or post-IPO."

Money-go-round

- ROMULO Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles is harvesting not one but two awards in a week, one given by the International Financial Law Review and the other by the Asian Legal Business magazine, both naming the blue-chip law firm as the Philippine law firm of the year.

- CEBU businessman Douglas Lu Ym was reported last Friday in this column as having won a crucial Supreme Court victory in the inheritance fight against the common-law wife of the late Cayetano Ludo, Douglas' father. The wife, Gertrudes Nabua, happens to be Douglas' very own mother, and the siblings named—George, Cayetano, Julieta, and Bernadita—happen to be Douglas' own brothers and sisters.

Heard through the grapevine

THE RESULTS of a quiet investigation conducted by lawyer Alfonso Reyno Jr. over a number of alleged score-shaving incidents in the last Golden Tee will be discussed during tomorrow's annual membership meeting of the Manila Golf Club.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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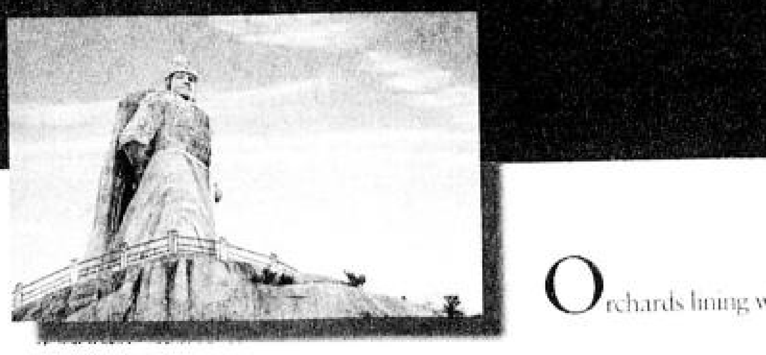

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Smart 25/8 plan to prevent network traffic

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART Communications Inc. and Pilipino Telephone Corp. today are launching their own buffet serving of P115 for 10 days of unlimited call, and P60 for six days of unlimited text within the network.

Dubbed as 25/8, the promo is available only to prepaid subscribers of Smart and Talk N' Text.

What is unique about Smart 25/8, according to Smart legal officer Rogelio Quevedo, is that the company has introduced an operator in the system to prevent network traffic. It has also created a firewall so as not to subject its postpaid customers to any congestion.

Smart 25/8 is a deal that surpasses the competitors' 24/7 plan, said Quevedo.

Sun Cellular set off a price war when it launched in October its 24/7 plan that allows subscribers to call and text within the network without limit for P250 for 30 days and P100 for P10 days.

Globe Telecom Inc. on March 7 launched a similar unlimited offer of P300 for 30 days and P50 unlimited text for five days, but only for subscribers to its Touch Mobile brand.

"We are confident that, even with our unlimited deal, we would still meet the performance standards set by the NTC while preserving quality service to our postpaid subscribers," Quevedo said.

Out of Smart's more than 19 million subscribers, about 98 percent are prepaid.

A Smart or Talk N' Text prepaid subscriber could join the offer if he has a load of at least P115. One must first register by sending a text message command to an access number, and upon registration, P115 would be deducted from the prepaid account.

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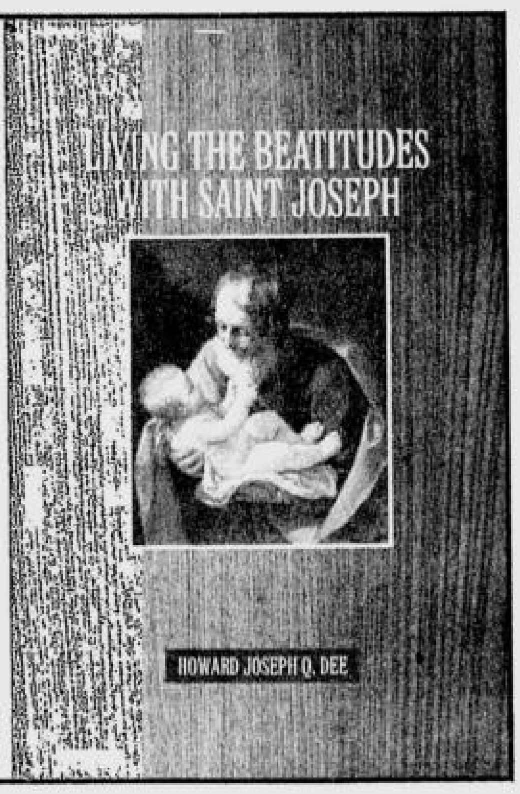

Rural women need stronger voice

COMMENTARY

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST March 8, the world celebrated International Women's Day. But for Filipino rural women, there was not much to celebrate about.

Today is the last day of the 49th session of the UN-sponsored Commission on the Status of Women for the review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPA), which started on Feb. 28. It is likewise appropriate that today, we in the Philippines assess the status of our rural women.

Background

The BPA was adopted during the fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in September 1995.

In recognition of the widespread feminization of poverty, the BPA called on governments and civil society to take strategic action in 12 critical areas of concern—poverty, education and training, health, violence against women, armed conflict, power and decision making, institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women, human rights, media, environment, and the rights of the girl child.

During the last 10 years, government organizations such as the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) and nongovernment organizations like the Abanse Pinay have achieved significant gains for women.

For example, the NCRFW succeeded in coordinating several women empowerment programs, while the Abanse Pinay helped craft new legislation protecting women's rights, such as punishing violence against women.

But for rural women, the record is not good. The BPA mandates that "the plight of women living in rural and remote areas deserves special attention, given the stagnation of development in such areas."

Statement

Last Jan. 27 and 28, a National Rural Women Consultation on the BPA was held at the Norphil Foundation in Quezon City. It was attended by more than 100 women rural leaders from around the country.

Part of their joint statement read: "There has been increasing unemployment among rural women, specially the young women who were forced to migrate to urban centers and overseas to look for employment.

"Only about 4.9 million, of the 11.9 million rural women who were of working age in 2002, were gainfully employed."

For those employed, the rural women "do not necessarily enjoy equal benefits and opportunities, as more than half of them—51.4 percent—form part of the unpaid family workers."

Several issues raised during this consultation indicate that there has been minimum compliance of the provision on special attention for rural women as the BPA mandated.

Some issues

In agrarian reform, many cases were cited, demonstrating that the local implementers were not aware of the policy on "non gender-biased" land titling. Some still identify farmer-beneficiaries based on traditional roles, e.g., who plows the land gets the title.

When peasant women tried to claim their rights, citing this non gender-biased policy, many gave up because of the tedious process they had to undergo. This is especially true for those whose titles have already been issued out to their husbands alone. Little has been done to correct this.

In fisheries, studies have shown that when one includes activities such as preparing and repairing the fish nets, cleaning the fish, and selling them, the women work more hours per day than the men. Despite this, the consultation stated that "the agri-fishery related programs and support services still benefit mostly men."

There is a management dictum: "If you do not measure it, you cannot improve it."

The rural women believe there is a serious lack of measures that are necessary to improve women's welfare. As an example, they state: "Agrarian reform statistics on women title holders reflect only the individual women beneficiaries (i.e., 20 percent of agrarian reform beneficiaries), but not the women spouses who should be counted as co-owners."

Rural Women Congress

The biggest group that participated in the National Rural Women Consultation was the Pambansang Congreso Ng Kababaihan Sa Kanayunan (National Rural Women Congress), one of the 39 members of the Alyansa Agrikultura, the biggest farmer-fisherfolk coalition today.

The congress' secretary general, Daryl Leyesa of the Philippine Peasant Institute (PPI), identified awareness on policies that promote women's rights as a key strategic BPA objective under the "women and human rights" section.

She said: "It would be wise to look into the efforts being done in letting women in the grassroots sector know of the mechanisms by which they can have their rights fulfilled and protected under the BPA."

A similar observation was made by Prof. Carol Sobritchea of the University of the Philippines Center for Women Studies at the "GO-NGO Consultation on the Beijing + 10" last August.

She stressed that the rural sector was a very weak link in the local BPA review process.

DA role

There are two legally mandated regional organizations that can help ensure rural women have a stronger voice. They are the Department of Agriculture (DA) regional offices and their attached regional agriculture and fisheries councils (RAFCs).

Unfortunately, whereas women headed some of these organizations three years ago, not one of these 36 regional organizations is headed by a woman today.

This is ironic, specially given this publication's front page news report yesterday: "Women in the Philippines ... are seen as better public officials than their male counterparts.

"The independent polling outfit Social Weather Station (SWS) showed women scoring better than men in efficiency and honesty, among others."

On the tenth year following the BPA declaration, and recognizing that rural women have largely been neglected in the BPA's implementation, the DA should now take immediate action. They should correct this gender imbalance and work double time for rural women to get the stronger voice they rightfully deserve.

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

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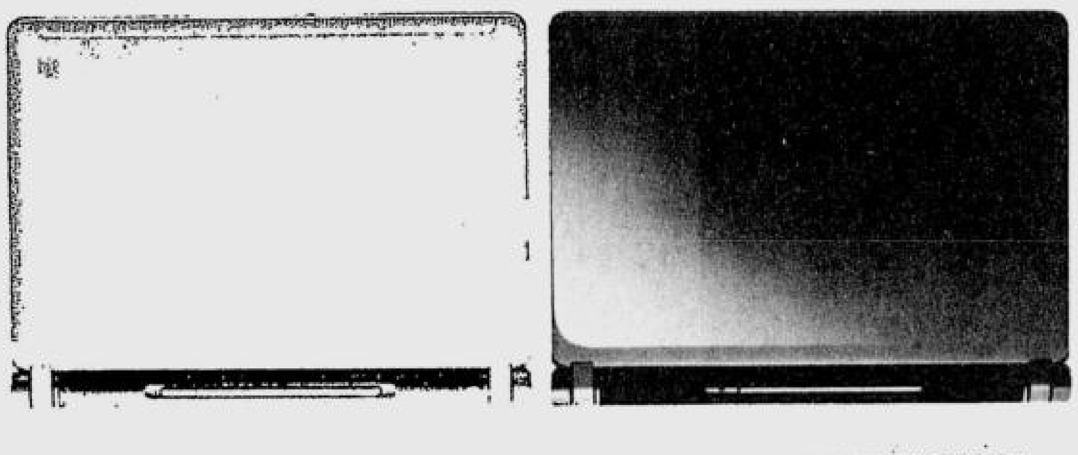

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Japanese lender asks gov't to start LRT-1 expansion

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE JAPAN Bank for International Cooperation has asked the Department of Finance to clear the immediate start of the 18-billion-yen (about P9 billion) LRT 1 expansion project.

JBOC chief representative Osamu Murata, in a letter to Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, said the delay in the project as "avoidable and meaningless [and] never in the interest of the government the people."

"I would like to strongly request your honorable secretary, as the borrower, and the oversight agency dealing with JBIC-assisted projects, to make all necessary arrangements for the early implementation of the contract," Murata said in a letter to Purisima.

"If the government of the Philippines delays the project further, we would like to receive your official explanations of the GOP's position on this project," Murata added.

The Japanese funding agency is dismayed that the $150-million capacity expansion of the Line 1 of the Light Rail Transit has not even started yet five years after the loan agreement between the JBIC and the government was signed. Line 1 runs from Monumento in Caloocan to Baclaran.

Certain quarters alleged that the bidding for the project—won by the joint venture between Sumitomo Corp. and Itochu Corp. both of Japan—was riddled with irregularities.

The Japanese financing agency had committed to lend 18 billion yen mainly to increase the Line 1's passenger capacity from 27,000 per hour per direction to 40,000 passengers per hour per direction. The loan carries a soft interest rate of 1 percent annually and will mature in 40 years with a 10-year grace period.

Murata said that even the Department of Budget and Management had agreed that the expected revenue from increased ridership following the capacity expansion should justify the cost of the project.

In 1999, the Philippines asked the JBIC for a loan to expand the capacity of LRT Line 1. The following year, the DOF signed the loan contract with the Japanese agency while the budget department guaranteed the loan with a counterpart fund.

Peso continues rally ...

From page B1

"A good follow-through would be a solid FDI (foreign direct investment) level. That's the time we can breach the 54-level," he said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said the peso might even hit 53.80-54:$1 due to portfolio inflows "as equity players bet the government will be able to pass the value-added tax measures and other tax reforms."

He agreed that the bullish sentiment for the peso was also due to the forthcoming IPOs of the two companies and the prospects of weaker dollar.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

April 7, 2005

To The Stockholders:

Pursuant to Article IV of the Amended By-Laws of the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of BPI will be held at the Grand Ballroom, Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City, Metro Manila, on Thursday, 07 April 2005, at 9:00 o'clock in the morning, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Calling of Meeting to order.
2. Certification of Notice.
3. Determination and Declaration of Quorum.
4. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on March 25, 2004.
5. Reading of Annual Report and approval of the Bank's Statement of Condition as of 31 December 2004 incorporated in the Annual Report.
6. Approval and Confirmation of all Acts during the past year of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and all other Board and Management Committees and Officers of BPI.
7. Election of 15 Members of the Board of Directors.
8. Election of External Auditors and Fixing their Remuneration.
9. Directors' Bonus.
10. Other Matters.

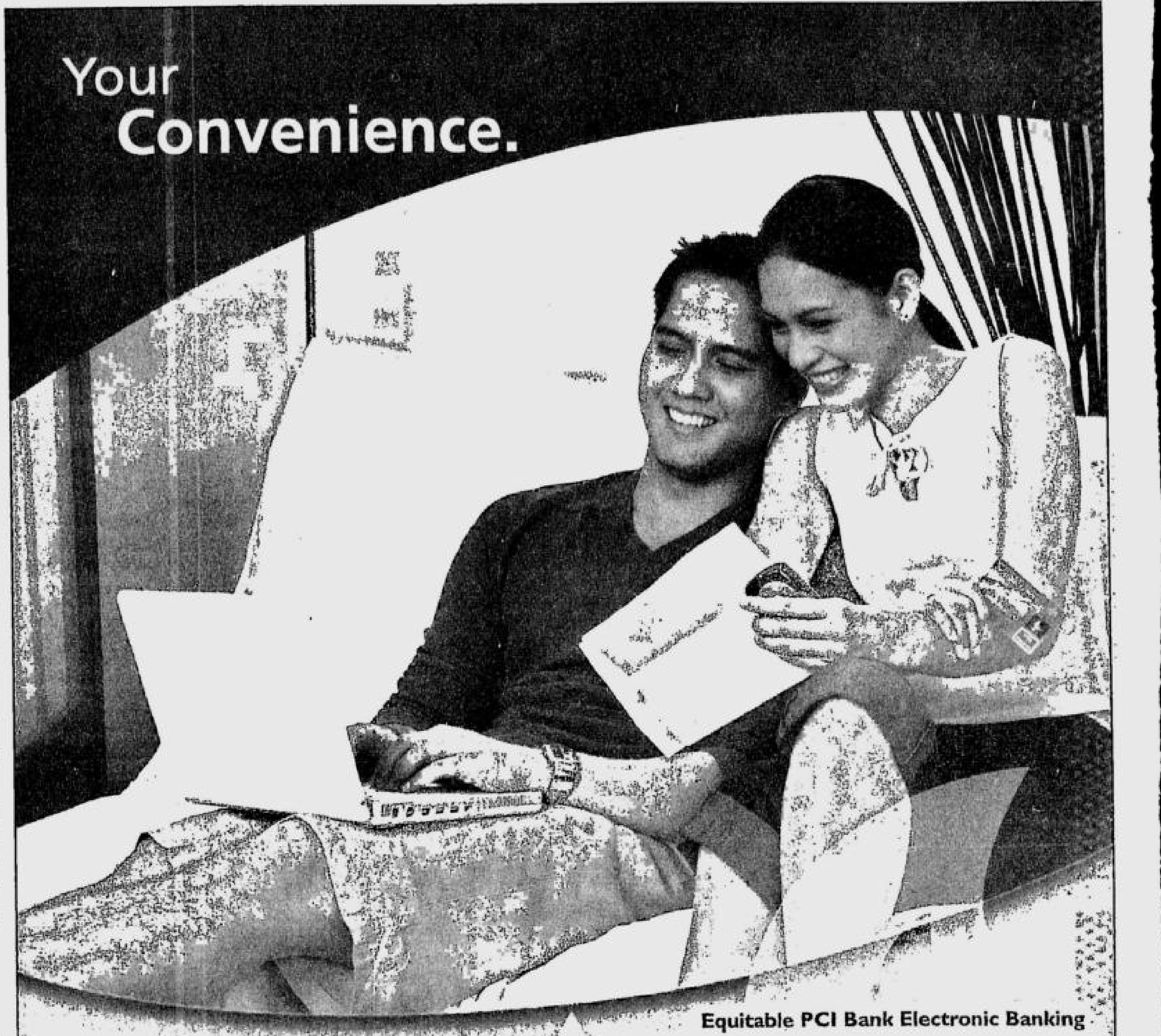
In accordance with Article XII of the said By-Laws, the Stock and Transfer Book of BPI will be closed from March 8, 2005 to April 7, 2005. Only Stockholders of record as of March 8, 2005 will be entitled to notice and to vote at the said meeting.

If it will be inconvenient for you to attend the meeting, you may at your option, appoint another person to represent you thereat by means of a proxy, which should be submitted to the Office of the Corporate Secretary of BPI, 19th Floor, BPI Building, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 P.M. of March 28, 2005. Validation of proxies shall be held at the same office on March 30, 2005 at 4:00 P.M.

When signing as attorney-in-fact, executor, administrator, guardian, or in any other representative capacity, please give full title and file papers showing your authority.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Sgd.) **CARLOS B. AQUINO**
Vice President &
Corporate Secretary



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San Miguel extends bid for Australia's NatFoods

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, has extended its takeover bid for Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd. to April 15, as it considers revising its A$1.78-billion offer.

San Miguel extended the A$5.90-per-share bid, adjusted for a 10-cent National Foods dividend payment in January, to April 15 from March 18, according to a company disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Analysts said the company was likely seeking extra time as it evaluated whether to move ahead with a higher bid, to top the A$1.84-billion offer of rival Fonterra Cooperative Ltd. of New Zealand, the world's largest dairy exporter.

"If they are still doing evaluations and it is taking this amount of time, it may indicate that they are considering a small increase above the Fonterra bid, not a large increase, otherwise it would have been easier for them to make a decision," Shaw Stockbroking analyst Scott Marshall said.

Another analyst noted that San Miguel had lodged a complaint about Fonterra's bid with Australia's takeover regulator, which could lead to more information on Fonterra's intentions in the Australia and New Zealand. yoghurt market if it wins the bid.

Fonterra last week lifted its offer by 65 Australian cents to A$6.00 a share and said it would pay A$6.20, valuing National Foods at A$1.84 billion, if it won at least 90 percent of the company.

Australia's takeover regulator said it had received a complaint from SMC, which claimed unacceptable circumstances in rival bidder Fonterra's offer for Australian dairy group National Foods Ltd.

In a statement, the Takeovers Panel said SMC's application alleged that there had been inadequate disclosure about a possible joint venture between National Foods, Sodima SAS and Yoplait SAS if Fonterra acquired National Foods.

SMC earlier reviewed its tack to takeover National Foods Ltd. after rival Fonterra Co-operative submitted a higher offer.

Options open to SMC include possibly raising its A$1.78-billion bid or withdrawing from the race to take control of Australia's largest dairy company, which was possible at this point but unlikely, industry sources said.

San Miguel Foods Australia Holdings Pty. Ltd., the investment vehicle SMC set-up for the takeover bid for National Foods, had said it was "considering its position," after taking note that Fonterra increased its offer for National Foods.

Fonterra said in a disclosure to the Australian Stock Exchange that it revised its offer to buy at least 50 percent of National Foods at $6 a share from an earlier bid of A$5.35 a share. It also offered to hike its bid to A$6.20 a share if it acquires at least 90 percent or more of National Foods.

An offer of A$6.20 a share values National Foods at A$1.84 billion versus SMC's bid estimated at A$1.78 billion.

Fonterra also offered National Foods shareholders the opportunity to receive redeemable preferred shares in Fonterra as an alternative to receiving cash and waive all remaining conditions to its offer other than the 50 percent minimum acceptance condition.

The redeemable preferred shares will mature on Mar. 15, 2010 and will pay a fixed 7 percent dividend a year.

Last Jan. 31, National Foods paid shareholders a dividend of 10 cents a share, which reduced SMC's original offer at A$6 a share by 10 centavos a share.

The board of National Foods, meanwhile, unanimously recommended that shareholders accept the revised offer in the absence of a superior proposal. It did not make any recommendation however to shareholders whether they should accept cash or redeemable preferred shares.

National Foods also noted that Fonterra's A$6.20 offer is 30 cents a share or 5.1 percent more than SMC's $5.90 a share offer.

National Foods also said that Fonterra's A$6.20 offer falls within the board's valuation range of A$6.01 to $6.55 a share announced last Dec. 6.

Fonterra's revised offer will remain open until March 29 unless extended.

Sources familiar with the activities of SMC, meanwhile, said it was likely the food and beverage giant has taken into account the possibility that Fonterra will hike its bid.

Local analysts said the fact that Fonterra topped its bid affirms San Miguel's own initial valuation for National Foods.

"I am sure SMC did not assume that their bid would go unchallenged. They will have to weigh the counter bid against what they think National Foods is truly worth but not overpay," Philippine Equity Partners head of research Jojo Gonzales said. *With a report from Reuters*

Investors snap up RP telco stocks

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOREIGN fund managers appear to be loading up their portfolio with stocks of Philippine telecommunications firms following a disclosure that Marathon Asset Management now owns more than 5 percent of Globe Telecom Inc.

"Marathon Asset Management has acquired additional holdings in this security that has taken its overall holding to a total greater than 5 percent of the company," said Globe in a disclosure.

Fidelity Investments, one of the world's largest fund manager, early this week also increased its stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to 5.13 percent.

Any investor acquiring more than 5 percent of a listed company is required to disclose the status to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Globe chief financial officer Delfin Gonzalez said that Marathon had been one of Globe's valued long-term investors.

"It is a UK-based fund manager and long term investor," Gonzalez said. "We hold active discussions with them during investors briefing."

As of Dec. 31, 2004, Marathon managed approximately $31 billion of assets for a broad range of institutional clients.

Analysts said the investors have been snapping up debt papers of regional phone companies including PLDT following reports of strong financial performance and better prospects.

Telco bonds are rallying, according to traders. One analyst said that PLDT was a candidate for investment grade status with the way it has been performing.

Nokia targets new markets

NOKIA Philippines Inc. yesterday said it would follow the moves of Philippine mobile phone operators and sell more phones to the lower-income segments of the market.

Nokia country manager Parikshit Bhasin said the D and E markets here should provide ample opportunities for handset producers, as well as mobile phone operators, to grow their businesses.

Nokia said the ranks of wireless subscribers in the country swelled to 32 million last year against 22 million in 2003.

"Growth has to come from the rural parts of the Philippines and we are also focusing on that. We want to get closer to the end user, which is why we have increased our service touch points to 19 last year from 14 the previous year," he said.

Bhasin said Nokia does not have the cheapest phones in the market, but claimed the company's products were the most cost-efficient.

The Finnish telecom supplier accounts for 75-85 percent of the local market for wireless handsets, and 34 percent of the global market.

Nokia sold 643 million handsets last year exceeding its target of 600 phones.

Nokia will introduce at least four new phones this year to suit different types of consumers.

Nokia 6101, 6230i and 6680 will be available by June, while the most affordable among them—the Nokia 6030—would be out by August. The 6030, which has all the basic features, will be sold at below P10,000.

The 6101 is Nokia's smallest fold-phone with push-to-talk features. It was estimated to cost below P15,000. The improved 6230 was estimated to range between P21,000 and P22,000.

Nokia 6680 is another 3G capable phone. It has two cameras, a flash and a bright screen. It should cost more than P30,000.

Nokia, said Bhasin, was not worried that the market for mobile handsets would be saturated because Filipinos are always in the lookout for new phones.

"As handsets become more affordable, growth would continue to improve. The replacement market catches up with the growth in subscriber base and at one point, it would match the subscriber growth," he said.

On the average, Filipinos change their mobile phones every 2-2.5 years. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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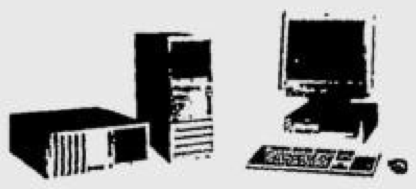

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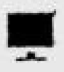

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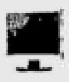

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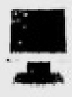

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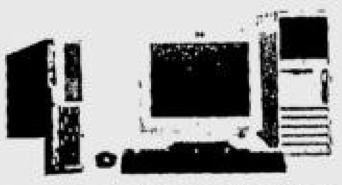

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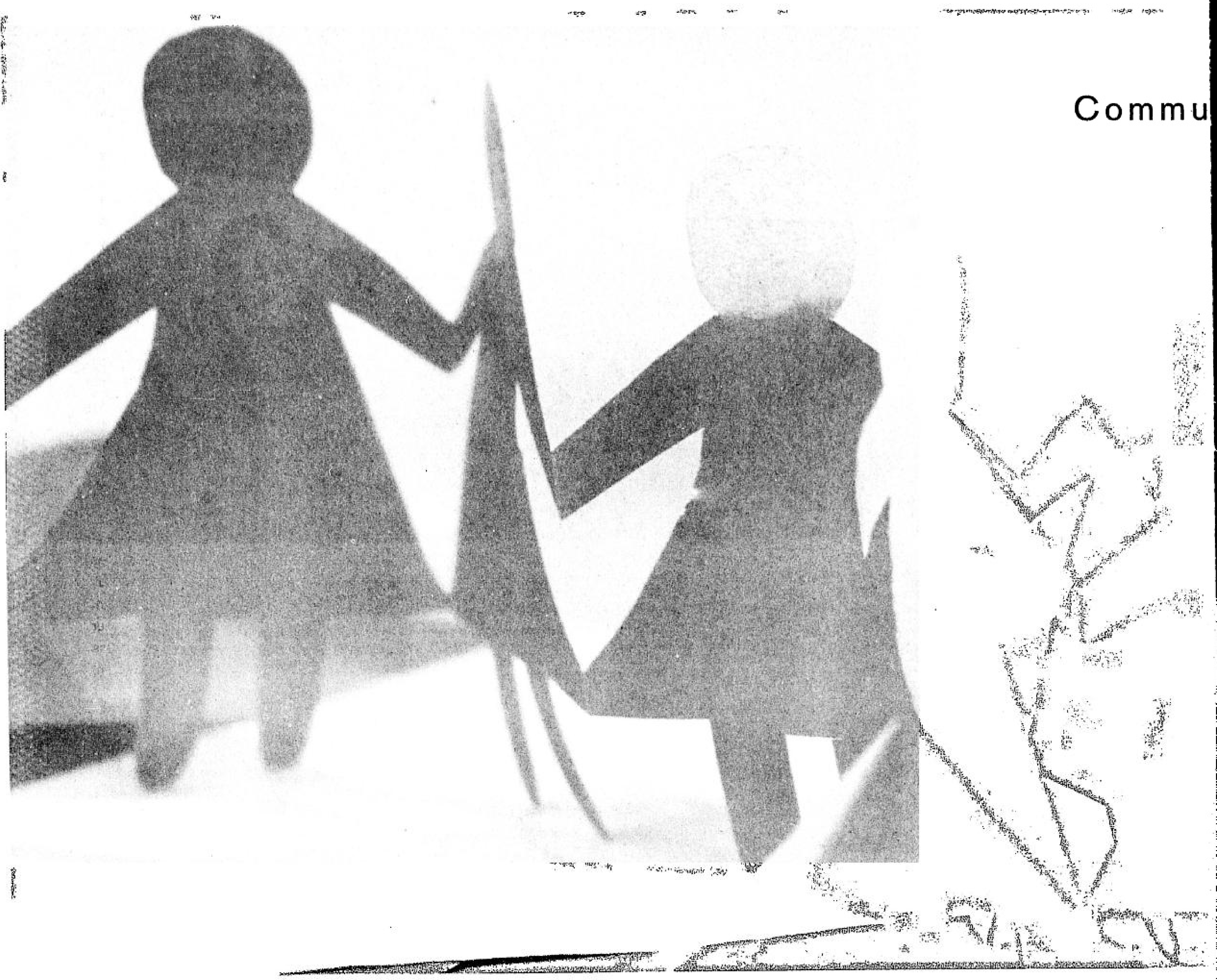

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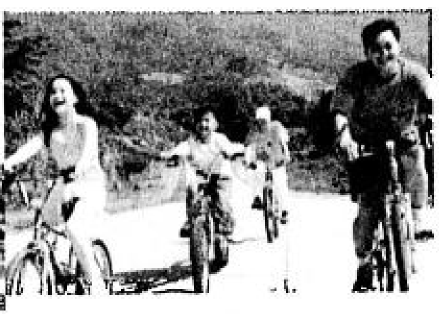

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Community Innovations Inc. has kept all these in mind in developing Verdana Homes Mamplasan. Nestled in an environment surrounded by nature, Verdana Homes Mamplasan provides you with an ideal location to live the life you've always dreamt of for you and your family.

Verdana Homes Mamplasan's low-density development assures you that you and your family will grow within a warm and caring village. Conducive to neighborly interaction, Verdana Homes Mamplasan provides the right ambience to building lifelong friendships with your neighbors.

Furthermore, Verdana Mamplasan's clean and secure surroundings enable you to enjoy life to the fullest. First-class amenities such as a grand clubhouse with the latest sports and leisure facilities such as adult and kiddie pools, a pavilion, a children's playground with modern equipment, a basketball court, 2 covered badminton courts, biking and skating rinks, picnic and barbecue areas, open playing fields, and tree-lined jogging trails give you ample opportunities to bond with your family and friends.

Growing a family is a lifelong task. We, at Verdana Homes Mamplasan, have worked doubly hard to help you in this journey. Join us and see how rich life can be in our community. Welcome to the family.

HLURB LTS Nos. 09198-R4A-04-02, 11298-R4A-04-11

THE COLUMNS

AYALA AVENUE

SUCCESS
IS ABOUT
LOCATION,
LOCATION,
LOCATION.

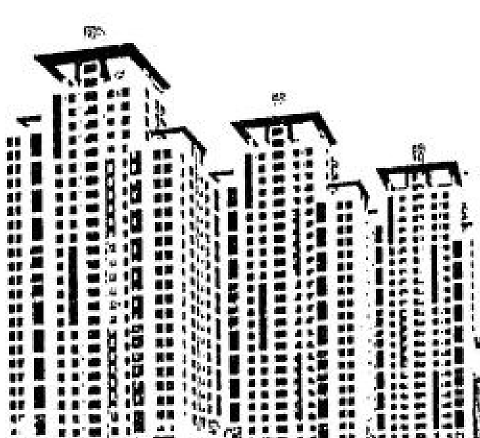
It's the secret of success in business. And it's equally true when it comes to choosing a home for yourself as well. For the aggressive young set of today, few things are more important than being at the very hub of things. And that is what The Columns, Ayala Avenue is all about.

Live a few steps from everything.

Imagine having a nice, leisurely breakfast while others are rushing off to work. Or going home for lunch. Or freshening up and even taking a nap before going out again for a night on the city. This is what The Columns, Ayala Avenue promises its lucky residents.

A life of leisure.

Conveniently located at the corner of Ayala and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, The Columns puts you right where you want to be: near your office, banks, shopping, restaurants, and entertainment centers. Some of them are even just downstairs!



A smart investment.

The Columns, Ayala Avenue is the ideal home for young urban achievers who want to be in the center of all the action! It's the first high-rise project of Community Innovations, Inc., an Ayala Company. So you can be sure the value of your investment will appreciate through the years.

HLURB LTS Nos. 07183, 06262, and 08176

Serenor

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You don't need to go far to ge
from it all. Situated in the he
Bonifacio Global City, Seren
12 hectares of sprawling ga
tree-lined walkways and jog
trails, playgrounds, and cha
residential units that marry
European-inspired masterpl
and Filipino warmth and sen
You'll also find game rooms.
badminton courts, basketball
function rooms, swimming p
a multi-purpose social hall, a
clubhouse, and a promenad
It's near several prestigious s
hospitals, and some of the v
best shopping as well.

Where other residential pro
force you to choose betwee
accessibility and space, Se
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enough to refresh you after
at work. Near enough to ma

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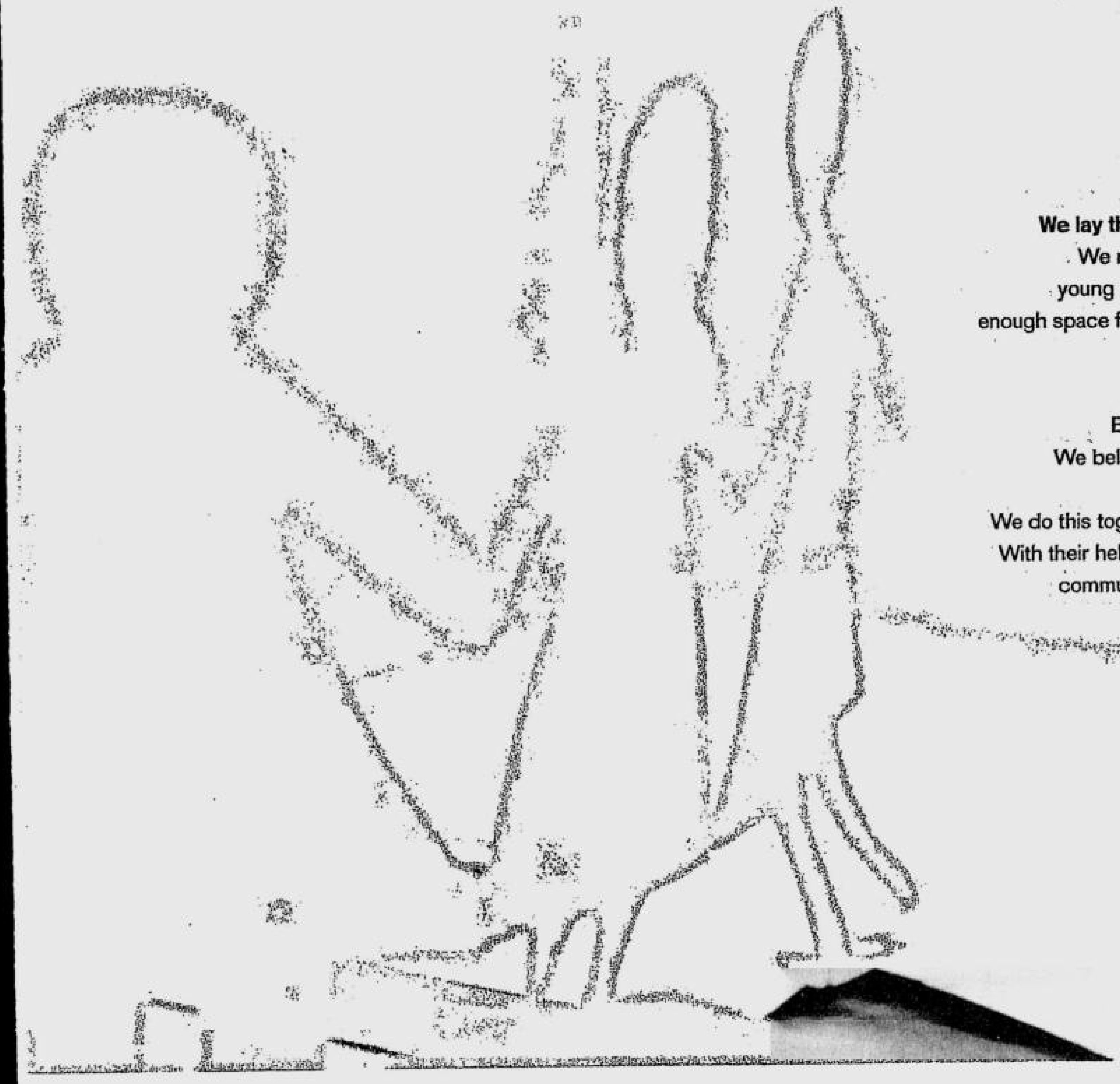
nities are more fun.



In a community, you get more than just a place to stay. You get neighbors. People who'll lend an ear or a hand as easily as they'd lend a hammer or stepladder.

In a community, you get to share stories, recipes, jokes, and lazy Sunday afternoons.

Your kids, well, they get playmates. They get buddies, study groups, bike rides. They make friends. And you get the security that they're in good company.

That's how it is in a community.

And so it is with us at **Community Innovations, Inc.**

Across all our projects, we do more than build homes. **We lay the foundations for secure and vibrant communities.** We make sure our projects are accessible enough to allow young urban achievers a quick escape from the urban jungle, enough space for families to grow. And expansive common amenities to ensure a sense of neighborliness. Of community.

But our job goes well beyond building and developing. We believe it's of equal importance to maintain the communities we build. To keep them safe, orderly, and beautiful. We do this together with the Ayala Property Management Corporation. With their help, security, landscaping, general maintenance, and other community-building activities are taken care of with promptness and efficiency. We believe in taking care of our own.

Because that's how it is in a community.

And it's a whole lot more fun that way.

COMMUNITY
INNOVATIONS INC.
An AYALA Company

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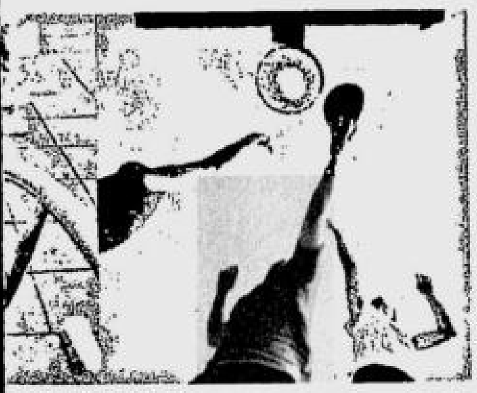
URBAN LIVING
N THE CITY



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sure families have more time together. And spacious enough to make sure such moments are enjoyed to the full.

With about 65% of its 12 hectares devoted to greenery, Serendra is truly a one-of-a-kind residential community. We like calling it your family's sanctuary in the big city that offers you room to breathe, walk, run, play, dance, love, and live. We're sure you'd love to call it home.

T ration
C promise

Driven. Ambitious. Accomplished. Enviably well-rounded. These are the hallmarks of what is today known as the Young Urban Achiever. Where the working professional of a generation ago wouldn't bat an eyelash about putting in truckloads of overtime, today's wage-earner works faster and smarter. Thus leaving time for other things in their life whether it's rock-climbing, cooking, badminton, or just plain hanging out and having fun with family and friends. Before, it was unheard of for the young professional to do anything less than work heart and soul for his company. Today's professionals are encouraged to have a life. These changes go far in debunking many formerly taken for truth practices. Where yesterday's belief was compromise, today's mantra is synergy. Today's quest is the win-win situation. The same holds true for these individuals when it comes to choosing a place to live in. The home of such a person should also be equally multi-faceted. An abode that marries the concepts of accessibility and comfort, of nearness to work and the availability of escape from the same. The kind of homes we at Community Innovations, Inc. pride ourselves on building.

All our projects are designed to be complete communities. This means a rich assortment of amenities, shared spaces for interaction, ample privacy, and accessibility to major business, leisure, education, and medical institutions as well. It's the kind of completeness the Young Urban Achiever seeks for at work. And the same that he'll find when he comes home to a Community Innovations, Inc. project.

A win-win deal, any way you look at it.

COMMUNITY
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For inquiries, call 888-0000
email cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph, or visit
www.communityinnovations.com.ph.

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Asian stocks hit by inflation worry

SINGAPORE—Asian shares fell on Thursday as hints of inflation in the world's largest economy stoked worries about higher US interest rates, and as weak data tempered hopes for a quick economic rebound in Japan.

The dollar briefly touched a two-month low against the euro after Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi told parliament foreign exchange reserves should be diversified.

The US currency rebounded after officials clarified Japan had no plan to change the composition of its reserves, the world's largest at $840.6 billion.

European stocks were expected to open lower due to declines on Wall Street and persistent high oil prices.

In Asia, oil retreated from near-record levels, while gold prices hit a 10-week high above $442 an ounce.

MSCI's index of non-Japan shares edged down 0.5 percent, backing off seven-year highs reached a day earlier.

Japan's Nikkei stock index closed down 0.85 percent at 11,864.91, with declines in technology stocks such as Tokyo Electron Ltd.

Meanwhile, Japanese government bond (JGB) yields jumped to just short of four-month highs following a sell-off in US Treasuries, but then erased gains after Japanese machinery orders data showed demand for semiconductors and computers had weakened.

Core private-sector machinery orders fell 2.2 percent in January from the previous month, below a median forecast for a 2.4 percent rise.

"While the underlying trend for capital spending is firm, investment is not taking off sharply," said Yoshikiyo Shimamine, senior economist at Dai-Ichi Life Research.

US Treasury prices slid, pushing benchmark yields to seven-month highs, as traders saw potential inflation in the Federal Reserve's beige book summary of economic conditions.

Faster inflation could force the Fed to raise short-term interest rates more quickly.

South Korea's benchmark KOSPI stock index dropped 1 percent after South Korea intervened in the currency market to cap a rise in the won, which had reached its highest level against the dollar in more than seven years.

The won had gained on a rise in consumer sentiment that provided more evidence that a two-year slump in domestic demand may be nearing an end.

Banks, exporters, steel and tech shares were all among the heavy decliners. Kookmin Bank fell 2.58 percent.

Declines in bank stocks also helped push down the index in Singapore, which fell half a percent, while Taiwan's index dropped 0.33 percent on lower technology shares.

Hong Kong fell 0.86 percent.

Australia's benchmark index fell 0.62 percent as a stronger-than-expected jobs report boosted concerns about another interest rate rise.

Shares of China's largest PC maker, Lenovo Group Ltd. leapt 5.38 percent after it said it received US security clearance to proceed with its planned purchase of IBM's PC assets.

Reuters

Oil prices ease

SINGAPORE—Oil prices eased from near record highs on Thursday, but held above $54 a barrel amid heavy heating oil use in the wintry US Northeast and concerns global demand growth could stretch above expectations.

The weak dollar, which hit a two-month low against the euro, also provided support as it encouraged investors to stick with the soaring oil market, which has climbed 25 percent since the start of the year.

Prices held firm despite another increase in US crude oil inventories, which topped 300 million barrels for the first time since last July after four consecutive weeks of rises, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported on Wednesday.

The United States said on Wednesday it was in contact with Opec countries to let them know that high oil prices hurt the US economy, although most cartel officials have scotched talk of a possible increase in output at the March 16 meeting in Iran.

Iran, Qatar, Venezuela and Algeria have come out in favor of keeping production steady and high US crude stock levels appear to back their stance that markets are well supplied.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, this week informed its customers that it would be supplying the same volume of crude in April as it shipped in March, market sources said.

Reuters

China import growth falls after cooling measures

BEIJING—China's annual import growth slowed to 8.3 percent in the first two months of 2005 as government efforts to cool credit and investment appeared to trim domestic demand in the world's seventh-biggest economy.

In January and February combined, China's imports were $84.2 billion while exports rose 36.6 percent from a year earlier to $95.3 billion, creating a surplus of $11 billion for the period.

"This might reflect slowing domestic demand and particularly fixed-asset investment," Goldman Sachs economist Hong Liang said in a research note, referring to the import figures.

The January-February import growth was down sharply from a year earlier, when imports were up 42 percent. December imports were up 24.6 percent on a year earlier.

In 2004 as a whole China imported 36 percent more than in 2003.

The combined data smoothes out some distortions caused by the timing of the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, which fell in January last year but was in February this year.

China's imports have become increasingly important to many of its neighbors, such as Japan and South Korea, which have relied on booming demand from one of the world's most vibrant economies to spur exports of machinery, components and raw materials.

Since mid-2003, Beijing has taken a raft of measures to cool the heated economy and put it on a more sustainable footing, curbing investment in the metals and property sectors and raising interest rates for the first time in nine years last October.

Also on Thursday, the government released producer price data for February that showed a weaker-than-expected rise of 5.4 percent from a year earlier. That was down from a peak of 8.4 percent in the year through October.

In February alone, imports were down 5.0 percent on a year earlier while exports were up nearly 31 percent, the Commerce Ministry said.

The monthly surplus compared with a $6.5 billion surplus in January and a deficit of nearly $7.9 billion a year earlier.

Four economists surveyed by Reuters had expected a February surplus of $5.7 billion.

Not all agreed that weakening import growth pointed to a genuine slowdown in Chinese demand.

"A dramatic drop in year-ago import growth will likely spook markets," JP Morgan economist Ben Simpfendorfer said of the February data. "The important point is that the drop owed to a high base last year after commodity import volumes and values surged."

No breakdown of imports was available to help explain the trend, but the volume of China's crude oil imports in January was already known to have been 24 percent lower than a year earlier and energy experts were expecting another drop in February.

Analysts said this would be partly because February 2004 imports had been so strong.

Reuters

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Rave Reviews for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Achievers and Leaders Seminar:

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APC sells Philcom

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

HOLDING firm APC Group has decided to sell its 40-percent stake in Philippine Global Communications to the Fiber Telecom group.

The APC board agreed to sell the equity in Philcom to concentrate its resources in energy and power-related projects.

APC chair and chief executive officer Willy Ocier told the INQUIRER that Fiber Telecom was the lone company that offered to buy APC's equity in Philcom.

Under the deal, Fiber Telecom will assume Philcom's liabilities worth some P5.3 billion.

APC needs to secure approval from its shareholders before the deal is finalized.

A special stockholder's meeting has been set on May 16.

Philcom has been losing heavily as it failed to keep up with the intense competition in the telecommunications business.

Philcom posted P600 million in losses last year.

With the sale of Philcom, APC has set its sights on developing its mining claims and participating in energy-related ventures.

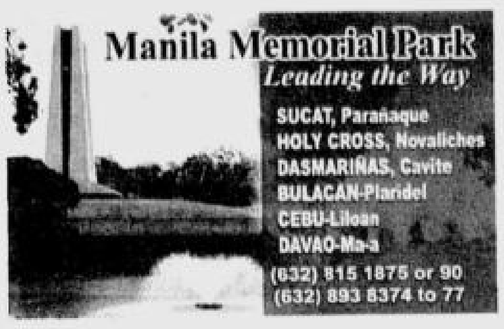
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 10, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	50,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30	30.5	30	30	356,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58	57.5	58	577,300
China Banking Corp.	690	690	690	690	840
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	50	50.5	50	50.5	49,600
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.9	0.9	2,410,000
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	91,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	37	35.5	37	2,279,700
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32	60,100
Phil. Savings Bank	32.5	32.5	30	30.5	10,400
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	23,800
Security Bank Corp.	31	31	31	31	158,300
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	32	31	32	18,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	100,000
First Abacus Financial	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	370,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	2550	2555	2550	2555	190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	1,020,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	151	152	151	152	2,100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1765	1765	1725	1725	430
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	35,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.44	19,078,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	2,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	935	935	930	935	37,210
Ipeople Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	58,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	2,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.0625	0.065	4,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	70,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	1,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.65	3.7	4,499,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1480	1480	1470	1470	120,420
Ivantage Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.81	0.81	2,350,000
Philweb Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.023	0.024	229,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	20.5	20.75	20.5	20.75	56,400
Manila Electric Co. B	30.5	30.5	30	30	894,700
Petron Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.35	4.35	5,334,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	300,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	20,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.7	8.7	8.6	8.6	289,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.68	0.68	0.63	0.63	250,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	5,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.77	0.79	0.75	0.76	6,530,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.83	0.83	0.83	0.83	100,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.4	4.45	4.35	4.4	5,857,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	15,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	118,400
RFM Corp.	0.99	1	0.96	0.99	3,470,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	56.5	56	56.5	98,700
San Miguel Corp. B	83.5	83.5	83.5	83.5	11,000
Universal Robina Corp.	11.25	12	11.25	12	320,600
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	113,600,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	40,000,000
Ayala Corp.	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.3	7,642,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.68	0.7	0.67	0.67	2,560,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	2,056,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	5,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.0575	0.06	0.055	0.0575	18,700,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.4	2.44	5,188,000
APC Group Inc.	0.49	0.52	0.49	0.49	21,070,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.008	83,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	40,000
Aries Prime Res. Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	34,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.2	22,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	25.5	26	25	25	121,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.215	0.215	0.195	0.2	7,500,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.28	1.3	44,760,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	1,340,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.28	0.29	10,630,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.55	0.55	0.5	0.5	2,650,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	4.7	4.7	4.45	4.5	2,012,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.06	9,200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.7	1.78	1.7	1.74	1,168,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	10.5	10.5	10.25	10.25	855,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	60	60	57.5	57.5	888,000
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.27	0.3	0.27	0.27	920,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.135	0.135	44,580,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.88	1.88	1,090,000
Ionics Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.66	1.66	350,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.9	4.25	3.9	4.1	8,449,000
Macroasia Corp.	2.02	2.1	2	2.06	868,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.72	1.74	2,110,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.18	0.2	0.18	0.2	500,000
Magnum Holdings, Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	310,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.54	0.57	0.52	0.55	3,450,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.59	24,660,000
Polar Property Holdings	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	5,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	110,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.5	132,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.36	0.37	2,080,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	420,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.58	350,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.45	4.25	3.45	4	283,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.205	0.205	13,250,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.2	0.21	3,160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	1,480,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	70,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.6	1.6	133,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.89	0.95	0.89	0.95	590,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.155	0.155	9,490,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.58	1.58	3,714,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	1.26	1.3	1.22	1.22	6,776,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.48	1.52	4,331,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	1,950,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	17.25	17.25	16.75	16.75	489,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	200
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.3	9.3	3,809,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.42	0.43	20,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	48,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.04	1,843,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	2,530,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.35	15,620,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	220,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.58	0.58	18,360,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.06	2.06	1.98	2	3,790,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	400,000
Highlands Prime, Inc.	2.75	2.75	2.5	2.5	61,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.33	28,150,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.78	730,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.25	0.25	4,870,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	3.85	4.4	3.85	4.4	1,612,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,850,000
SM Development Corp.	1.84	1.86	1.84	1.84	310,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	9.1	9.1	8.7	8.8	4,920,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1	1.02	1	1.02	125,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	86,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6.1	5.9	6.1	109,000
Benguet Corp. A	8	8	8	8	9,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.4	5,370,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.43	12,090,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	20,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.027	29,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0085	0.0095	1,342,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.22	1.22	1.18	1.22	1,108,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.46	4,420,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	45.5	46.5	45.5	46	1,934,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	290,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.006	0.006	25,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	51,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	78,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	770,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	180,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	17,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3	3	2.9	2.9	4,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.235	0.235	0.225	0.23	2,390,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	210,000

CURRENCIES

March 10, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.746993	1.000000	54.4700
Japan	Yen	0.007186	0.009620	0.5240
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437141	1.923900	104.7948
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.095774	0.128212	6.9837
Switzerland	Franc	0.644460	0.862738	46.9933
Canada	Dollar	0.619192	0.828912	45.1508
Singapore	Dollar	0.461107	0.617284	33.6235
Australia	Dollar	0.592194	0.792770	43.1822
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.981467	2.652590	144.4866
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.199187	0.266652	14.5245
Brunei	Dollar	0.459689	0.615385	33.5200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000080	0.000107	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.019504	0.026110	1.4222
UAE	Dirham	0.203402	0.272294	14.8319
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.338700	72.9190
Argentina	Peso	0.254513	0.340716	18.5588
Brazil	Real	0.274731	0.367782	20.0331
Denmark	Kroner	0.134330	0.179827	9.7952
India	Rupee	0.017152	0.022962	1.2507
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.196603	0.263193	14.3361
Mexico	New Peso	0.067847	0.090827	4.9473
New Zealand	Dollar	0.549260	0.735294	40.0515
Norway	Kroner	0.122074	0.163420	8.9015
Pakistan	Rupee	0.012588	0.016852	0.9179
South Africa	Rand	0.129182	0.172936	9.4198
Korea	Won	0.000746	0.000999	0.0544
Sweden	Kroner	0.110494	0.147918	8.0571
Syria	Pound	0.014390	0.019264	1.0493
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024348	0.032595	1.7754
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000348	0.000466	0.0254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OBITUARIES

I am
the
way,
the
truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

ENRIQUE CLEMENTE, Jr.

Entregó su alma al Creador el 20 de Febrero del 2005
en Los Angeles, California a la edad de 84 años.

Su desconsolada esposa **Tere**, hijos **Ricky y Charo, Jo, Chiqui y Tony Diy**, nietos **Fonsi, Henry, André, Mikey, René, Antón** y **Krystina**
hermanos, hermanas y demás familia ruegan al piadoso lector pidan en sus oraciones por su alma.

Sus restos se traerán a Manila el 14 de Marzo y la velación tendrá lugar en la Iglesia de Saint James the Great, Ayala Alabang.
Los servicios funerales se llevarán a cabo el 15 de Marzo después de la santa misa a las cuatro de la tarde.

JOSIE CHEE FONG

Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 7, 2005 at the age of 42.

Her brothers and sisters: **Luisa, Pacita, Mariano, Lilli, Miling, Alfonso, Victoria** and **Felipe**, nephews, nieces and relatives thank the Lord for blessing her life.

Her remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Ever Memorial Park, Valenzuela City on Saturday, March 12, 2005, after service at 8:00 a.m. at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

In Loving Memory

BENITA GOLOYUGO vda. DE SANCHEZ

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 10, 2005.

Sadly missed by her loving children and relatives, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Interment will be on March 13, 2005 (Sunday), 9:00 AM at the Rosales Cemetery, Rosales, Pangasinan.

Children:
Eduardo – Rosita (†)
Ildefonso – Estrellita
Arturo – Anita
Sol – Rudy
Norma – Ricardo
Teofilo – Lina
Gloria – Felix

Grandchildren:
Jane, Adong, Joey, Jun, Ma. Benita, Rosemarie, Angelo
Sheila, Martin, Caloy
Anne Marie, Audrey
Jerico, Jen-Jen
Eric, Bong (†), Carmela, Rowell
Leng-Leng, Maricel, Thesa, Myra
Glofel, Xavier
and
great grandchildren

Charlie K. Ong

(Guan Yek Dry Goods)
of City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Peacefully joined his Creator, his loving wife ANG UN KENG
and his son Richard on March 9, 2005 at the age of 84.

His loving companion **Felecitas Esguerra**, children **Vicky** and **Ben So, George** and **Elizabeth, Elizabeth** and **Johnny Chua, Louis** and **Vicky, Katherine, Solomon, Cherry**, grandchildren and relatives request the pious readers to pray for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City and will be brought home on Saturday, March 12, 2005 to San Fernando, Pampanga at the Good Shepherd Memorial Chapel.

Interment will be on Tuesday, March 12, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at San Jose Chinese Cemetery.

Our Dearly Beloved Father

FEDERICO LAOAGUEY LIMOS

of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur

Peacefully joined his Creator
on March 8, 2005 at the age of 79.

His loving wife **Matilde**; children **Junior, Norma & Tom; Beth, Bobby & Marivic**; grandchildren **Bong-Bong, Erick, Jessica, Kathleen, Carlo, Dianne & Kristine** request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on March 13, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after 1:00 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory

OFELIA DE LEON RENDON

Born September 8, 1925
peacefully passed away in the
Grace of our Lord on March 5, 2005.

Sadly missed by husband **Angel**; children **Ramon Raul & Erlinda Nuqui, Dennis Joseph & Teresa Borja, Maria Lourdes & Peter Paul Mejorada, Eduardo Sixto & Shiela Obliga**; grandchildren, brothers & sisters, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment will be held on Saturday, March 12, 2005, at the Roxas City Catholic Cemetery after the 2 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

"Lord, You know what is best for all of us.
help us to be resigned to Your Will."
Gerardine's Prayer

Our Dearest Papang

DR. JESUS FERI FERAREN

of Vigan, Ilocos Sur & BF Homes, Parañaque

peacefully returned to our Heavenly Father on March 7, 2005 at the age of 97,
*and joyfully joins his loving children **Baby Grace Mita, Salvador, Samson** and **Gerardine**.*

His devoted & caring wife **Natividad**, and loving children: **Grace Mita (†), Salvador (†), Samson (†), Serafin, Sr. Natividad de Jesus, SPC (Gloria/Mita), Grace, Gemma, Gerardine (†), Germaine** and **Germeline Alice Virginia (Alvi)**, sister, **Juanita**, sister-in-law **Matilde (†)**, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, relatives and friends request prayers for Papang's eternal rest, peace and happiness in Heaven.

His remains lie in state at Fr. Wilmann SJ Suite, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat, Road, Parañaque City after the 1:30 p.m. mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 12, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 1:30 PM Mass at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels.

CLASSIFIEDS

AMA BANK
Celebrates its
52nd Anniversary
with children from

AMA BANK CELEBRATES 52nd YEAR

AMA Bank celebrates its 52nd Anniversary with children from Missionaries of Charity at Tayuman Street, Manila last February 27 (From left: branch managers Eugene Francisco, Maya Almazan, Margaret San Dieto and Justin Javillonar, AVP Monina Javier, manager Amor Galang, SAVP Fe Sinoro, branch manager Alma Valdez, EVP Alejandro Soliman, VP Edgardo Hugo, marketing officer Anthony Duka, AVP Roberto Bombasi, VP Eduardo Apacible, AVP Elma Lungca, manager Danilo Torres and manager Tess Duka

TransCo, Akelco sign P33-M deal

AS PART of government's thrust to institute energy sector reforms pursuant to the EPIRA, the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) recently signed a lease purchase agreement with Aklan Electric Cooperative (Akelco) for P33 million worth of sub-transmission assets the province. Under the agreement, TransCo will divest its 60-kV Nabas-Caticlan line to Akelco. Secretary Perez (center) hailed the agreement as another manifestation of the astonishing recovery of the electric cooperative which was recently upgraded to Class A+ category by the National Electrification Administration, the highest category of an electric cooperative. Akelco serves the island of Boracay - the country's premier tourist destination. In photo, TransCo President Alan T. Ortiz, Ph.D. (2nd from right) and Akelco Board of Directors President Chito Peralta seal the contract with a handshake. At extreme left is Akelco's Executive Officer Erico Bucoy while TransCo District Manager Rey Jaleco is at far right. Aklan's lone congressional representative Florencio Miraflores (partly hidden), Aklan Governor Carlito Marquez, and Tonypet Albano of ERC (not in photo) also graced the historic occasion.

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Gross weight, when & where was barge built, present location of barge, description of other barge features (ballast tanks, towing & mooring bollards, etc)
Photographs
Details of current Marine Survey Certificate (barge with current Philippines Department of Transport Marine Survey Certificate or License preferred)
When available (immediate preferred) for inspection & delivery
Price offered for outright purchase (Offer valid for minimum 60 days)

Payment will be by telegraphic bank transfer of funds, direct from client, within seven (7) days of acceptance (subject to detailed inspection by Marine Surveyor).

For further information & inquiries, contact Mr. Harold Wolf (phone 632-893-7510).

Expressions of Interest must be in writing (hand delivery or via fax or email) submitted, not later than 1800 hours, Friday 18 March 2005, to:
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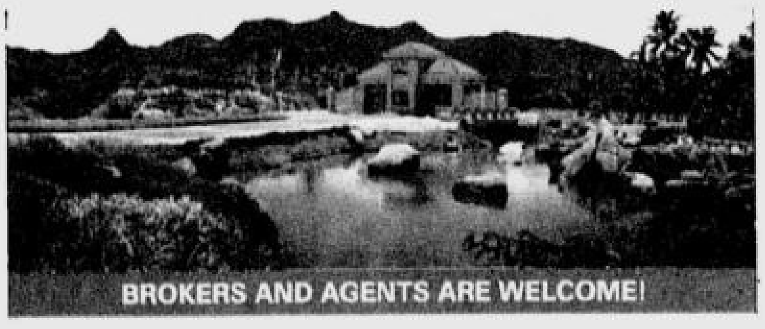

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE LEONARDO S. SARAD HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG THE HEIRS UNDER DOC #341 PAGE #70 BOOK #4 SERIES OF 2004 OF NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. GENEROSO G. MOLERA NOTARIAL REGISTRY (PDI MAR. 11,18,25, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late MARY PIAMONTE CASTILLO DE GUZMAN was settled by her heirs through an extrajudicial portion acknowledged before Notary Public Raymund Mecate of Silang, Cavite as per Doc. #39 Page 8, Book II, Series of 2005. (PDI - March 11, 18 & 24, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given for the loss of one booklet of ORIGINAL RECEIPTS last December 18, 2004 with series no. 11009 to 11050 owned by QUALITY CIRCUITS SERVICES, INC.
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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of **SAN MIGUEL YAMAMURA ASIA CORPORATION** with office address at **Km. 27 E. Aguinaldo Highway, Imus, Cavite** for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as Amended, as a **Expanding Producer of Glass Containers** at a capacity of **145,701 MTPY** with project site at **same office address stated above** has been officially accepted on **March 3, 2005** and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing under oath, with the BOI within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

Issued this 3rd day of March 2005.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Officer-in-Charge
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – March 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Public Bidding)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHILHEALTH) wishes to invite bidders for **STORAGE UPGRADE.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from March 4 to March 17, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat - Bids and Awards Committee (OSBAC), Room 1804, 18th Floor, City State Centre #709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php **3,750.00.**

The **PhilHealth** had provided funds for this project for which this invitation is issued. The approved budget for this contract is Php**7,500,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 18, 2005 at 1:30 p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Submission of bids will be on April 13, 2005 on or before 12:00 noon at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804. Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the **non-discretionary "pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 75,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 112,500.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 187,500.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 7,500,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality on the eligibility requirements and of this project. Furthermore, PhilHealth reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd) MELINDA C. MERCADO
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and Chairperson, BAC-ITR

(PDI – March 4 & 11, 2005)

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Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee – Head Office, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites BSP/G-EPS registered companies/contractors and other interested suppliers to a public bidding for the one lot – supply, delivery, installation and commissioning of:

CCTV Systems, with Computer Based Management Systems, 40 KVA Uninterruptible Power Supply, and 40 KVA Automatic Voltage Regulator (AVR) for the use of BSP – Security Plant Complex as per BSP Technical Specifications and Scope of Works.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) – P92,896,120.06

Completion Period: Within one hundred twenty (120) working days after receipt of Notice to Proceed.

Bid documents are available from 3-14-05 to 3-28-05 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P46,500.00 at the following:

BAC Secretariat
Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building
cor. A. Mabini and P. Ocampo Sr. Sts., Malate, Manila
Tel. No(s). 5236427

Pre-Bid Conference Time and Date: April 1, 2005 at 3:00 p.m.
Bidding date and Time: April 13, 2005 not later than 10:00 AM
Place: Room MR2A, 2nd Floor, 5-storey Building, BSP Main Complex, Malate, Manila

Interested bidders shall submit not later than the bidding date and time the following documents in three (3) separate envelopes:

Envelope No. 1:

1. Articles of Incorporation, Business Registration Papers and Company Profile
2. Y2003 Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement & Balance Sheet)
3. Y2003 Income Tax Return duly stamped/received by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) or its Authorized Agent Bank or a Certified True Copy of Y2003 Income Tax Return issued by the Revenue District Officer of the Bureau of Internal Revenue concerned (for electronic filing)
4. Taxpayer's Identification Number (Photocopy of the TIN Card).
5. Valid and current Mayor's Permit/Municipal License, if not available, Official Receipt of Y2005 license/permit application.
6. Prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC) which shall be at least equal to the ABC, duly signed by the authorized signing official and supported with pertinent documents, i.e., financial statements and copies of ongoing project contracts; or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contract to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate valid for at least one (1) month reckoned from 3-31-05. The commitment or cash deposit certificate shall be in an amount not lower than 10% of the ABC. The NFCC shall be computed as follows: NFCC = [(Current assets – Current liabilities) (K)] minus value of all outstanding projects; K = 10
7. Sworn statement that the firm is not blacklisted from bidding in any Government Office, Agency, Corporation
8. Letter authorizing the BAC or its duly authorized representative to verify any or all of the documents submitted for eligibility check
9. Sworn certification by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative that each of the documents submitted is an original copy or a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original
10. Affidavit of the prospective bidder that he or she or any officer of their corporation is not related to the Head of the Procuring Entity by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree;
11. Certificate of authorized dealership or distributorship from the manufacturer.
12. Certificate of quality assurance from the product manufacturer (e.g. ISO, BVI and other reputable standard issuing authority).
13. Certificate from the Manufacturer attesting full support to the bidder in supplying spare parts, accessories, and related items of the equipment (for at least five (5) years or more after its delivery), as well as after sales service.
14. Certificate from the bidder indicating that they have an authorized technical service center located within Metro Manila, Philippines with complete spare parts, equipment tools and trained technicians.
15. List of at least two (2) satisfied clients with similar completed project, each amounting to at least Five Million Pesos (Php5,000,000.00). The list should include the name/s of the contact person, address, email address and telephone/fax numbers.
16. List and information on personnel who will be fully/partially involved in the project, including photocopy of the certificate of training of said personnel from the manufacturer of the equipment.

Envelope No. 2:

1. Instructions to Bidders
2. Duly accomplished Certification/Undertaking
3. Original Bid Security
4. Original brochures and technical data sheet

Envelope No. 3:

Price Proposal with attached detailed cost breakdown

All envelopes shall be dropped in the bid box located at Room MR2A, 5-Storey Bldg., BSP Main Complex. **LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
The BSP assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **MELPIN A. GONZAGA**
Vice-Chairman

(PDI–March 11, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System. Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m. on **April 6, 2005** at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the supply and installation of the following:

Internet service for 12 months, 8 mbps x 2 guaranteed bandwith, with government estimated cost of P8,000,000.

The pre-bid conference will be held on **March 21, 2005** at 3:00 p.m., SPMO-SYS, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Bid documents are available starting **March 14, 2005** at the SPMO-SYS. Contact person: Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph.

The University of the Philippines System reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defect or informality required in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **MARTIN V. GREGORIO**
Vice-President Administration

(PDI - March 11 & 18, 2005)

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION
SSS Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner V. A. Rufino Street, Makati City
Tel. No. 841-4925; Fax No. 8414927; Website: www.pdic.gov.ph
E-mail: bacsecretariat@pdic.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for its manpower services requirement. Relevant information and schedule of events are shown below:

Approved Budget for the Two (2) Individual Contracts/Projects	1. P7,040,000.00 - for six (6) months covering the period May 2005 to October 2005 2. P7,040,000.00 – for six (6) months covering the period November 2005 to April 2006
Source of Funding	2005 Budget
Number of Manpower Requirement for PDIC Chino Roces & Ayala Extension Offices per Contract/Project	85 Contractual Personnel
Minimum Requirements per Contract/ Project	Prospective bidder shall have at least 3 yrs. experience in providing manpower services to a government agency/ies or institution/s and a commercial bank/s or financial institution/s and with at least 100 contractual personnel deployed in 2004
Availability of Instructions to Bidders	Starting March 13, 2005 8:00am – 5:00pm 9th Floor, BAC Secretariat, SSS Building, 6782 , Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City
Pre-bid Conference	March 28, 2005 – 2:00 pm 7th Floor, Board Room, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City
Deadline for the Submission of Eligibility, Technical and Financial Proposals; opening of said proposals shall follow immediately.	April 11, 2005 – Until 2:00 pm 9th Floor, SSS Building, 6782 , Ayala Ave. cor. Rufino St., Makati City

The Bidder may bid for any one or both of the above-mentioned contracts/ projects.

The Instruction to Bidders and the Terms of Reference shall be made available to interested bidders after payment of a non-refundable amount of P300.00.

The eligibility screening of bidders, evaluation of bids and awarding of contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

PDIC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any informality or minor defect, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

PDIC shall in no case be held responsible or liable for any and all costs associated with the bidders' participation in the bidding process regardless of its results.

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – March 11, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills
City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Securities and Exchange Commission, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites qualified local bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the JANITORIAL MANPOWER SERVICES for SEC Main Office, SEC Building, EDSA Greenhills, Mandaluyong City. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) is FOUR MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FORTY ONE PESOS (4,403,341.00). The contract is for one (1) year from the date of award for 16 janitors, 15 haulers, 1 electrician, 1 utility man and 1 supervisor all rendering eight (8) hours duty for six (6) days a week of from Monday to Saturday.

a. Duly licensed Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships; or
b. Partnership duly organized under the laws of the Philippines and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the interest belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
c. Corporation duly organized under the laws of the Philippines, and of which at least seventy five percent (75%) of the outstanding capital stock belongs to citizen of the Philippines; or
d. Cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
e. Bidder must be in operation continuously for ten (10) years up to 2004.

Bidder should submit a contract for the last two (2) years period and must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting **March 10, 2005 to March 17, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00).

Deadline for submission and opening of eligibility envelope shall be on **March 28, 2005**, 10:00 a.m. at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

A complete set of bidding documents may be obtained from **March 28 to April 4, 2005** at the General Services Division, 4th Floor, SEC Building, EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). For further details, please contact Asst. Director Romeo O. Dauag at Tel. No. 727-3320. Only Bidder who is prequalified could purchase the Bid Documents and shall be eligible to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and participate in the Bidding.

Pre-Bid conference will be on **April 4, 2005, 10:00 a.m.**. at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building.

Deadline for submission and opening of bid envelopes will be on **April 18, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the Market Regulation Department (MRD) Conference Room, 6th Floor, SEC Building. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents will no longer be accepted anymore.

Republic Act 9184, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) shall govern all particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation, Post Qualification and Awards of Contracts.

The SEC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal as evaluated is most advantageous to the Commission.

SEC also assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee that any award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOSE AQUINO**
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–March 11 & 18, 2005)

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BUSINESS

Investors anxious over RP revenue measures

By Doris C. Dumlao

MACTAN Island—Foreign and local investors may be upbeat over economic prospects in the Philippines, but they are still anxious on whether Malacañang can deliver on its commitment that the vital tax reforms will sail through Congress.

Of all the tax reforms, the increase of the value added tax (VAT) is seen as the pivotal measure.

During a two-day Euromoney Philippine Investment Conference here attended by about 400 participants, businessmen and investors generally shared the optimism of government economic managers that the country could hurdle its fiscal woes.

"There is increasing evidence that the outlook for the Philippines is better than it has been for years, and that the progress the Republic has made, in the face of so much adversity, is being more broadly recognized by international investors around the world," said Rodney Ward, chair of leading investment bank UBS Asia.

Also, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima recognized that a lot was at stake on the VAT bill shaping up in Congress.

He said the passage of a law that would meet revenue expectations—which meant raising the rate from 10 to 12 percent and expanding its coverage—would be the catalyst for a "bull run" of foreign investments.

During her keynote address, President Macapagal-Arroyo herself assured the businessmen that "Congress will deliver."

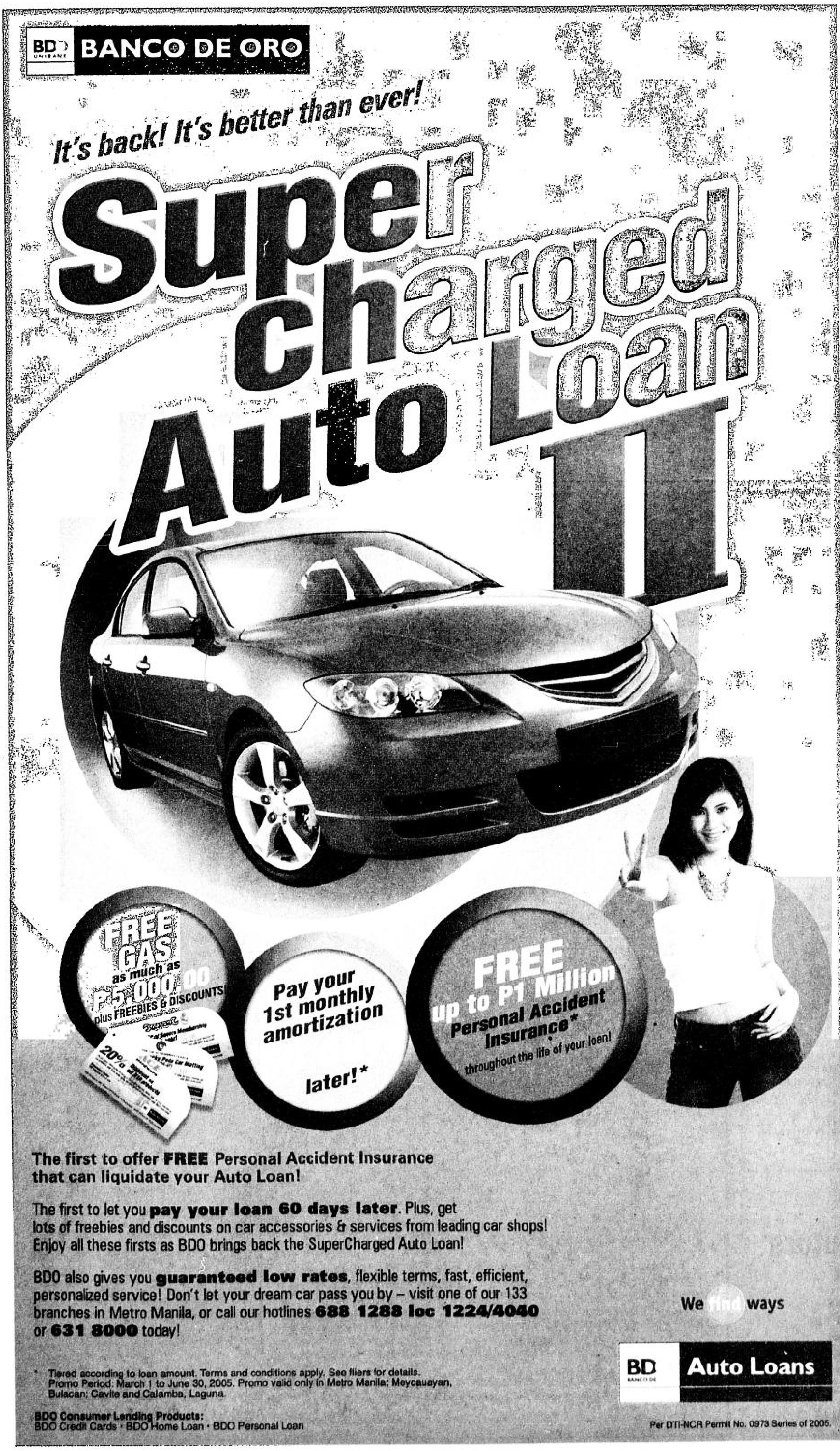
Claire Mcletchie of Hong Kong-based Standard Life Investments said she was convinced that the government was doing its best, but said its track record would have to be strengthened.

"If you can not deliver, then don't promise, and the markets will be patient," Mcletchie said. "If you can deliver then market will reward you."

Ayala Corp. CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II said: "Net inflows are coming ... the challenge is for the private sector to translate inflows to capital growth for long-term projects."

Trade Secretary Juan Santos had something similar to say when he said that, amid the resurgence of investor confidence on the country, the challenge was to sustain this interest.

Santos said the government was working to address the stumbling blocks to more investments, such as improving infrastructure and lowering the cost of doing business.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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0973 Series of 2005.

Palace urged to carry out fiscal reforms

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is urging the government to carry out right away the implementation of its fiscal reform programs.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the Arroyo administration should frontload the programs and have all of them implemented within the year to keep the country prepared for "external shocks."

The BSP chief cited the warnings of the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank that oil prices might again increase due to rise in demand and supply disruptions, and that the global economy would slow down next year.

The increase in oil prices have a strong adverse impact on inflation as well as on movements of the peso, while the decline in global economic activity could hurt the Philippine export sector, he said.

The programs that Buenaventura said should be fast-tracked include the revenue-raising measures—both legislative and administrative—that have been lined up by the Arroyo administration to ease the budget deficit, the selling of assets of the National Power Corp., and the increase in generation rates by the National Power Corp.

The government said it needs P80 billion in additional taxes every year over the medium term to achieve its zero-budget deficit target by 2010.

But the BSP, echoing calls from the country's foreign lenders, said the budget consolidation program should be accelerated. It is only when the budget deficit is wiped out that the government could start reducing its debts, the BSP said.

The government has acknowledged that solving its fiscal problems was crucial in attaining a sustainable economic growth.

So far, Buenaventura said, the programs government had implemented could not yet help reduce its debts—pegged at P3.8 trillion as of end-December last year.

This is because, the additional revenues to be collected from the present programs can only be used to reduce the deficit, he said.

Consortium eyes Palawan oil contract

By Abigail L. Ho

THE CONSORTIUM composed of Shell Philippines Exploration BV, South China Resources Inc. and the Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Corp. (Kufpec) has applied for a contract to explore for oil and gas in northeast Palawan.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez yesterday confirmed receipt of the application to convert South China's Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract 99 over northeast Palawan into a service contract.

The contract will cover a 13,320-square-kilometer area and will involve the drilling of additional wells to test the field's potential to produce oil or gas.

This service contract application was the first for the Sulu Sea side of Palawan, he said.

Existing service contracts cover areas on the other side, near the South China Sea.

Perez said the application was significant as it was the second project of Spex.

The first was Service Contract No. 38 which covers the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project, also in Palawan.

"This could mean that they're [Shell Group] coming back again. This contract is big in the sense that the consortium has a Middle Eastern partner," Perez told reporters yesterday.

South China last year chose to convert GSEC 99 into a service contract.

On the first exploration phase covering 20 months, the consortium would acquire and process 450 square kilometers of 3D seismic data and 1,000 line-kilometers of 2D seismic data, said DOE oil and gas division head Ismael Ocampo in a presentation posted at the DOE's official website.

After the data acquisition, the group will evaluate the block and proceed with the drilling of an exploration or appraisal well in the succeeding phases of the contract.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered the DOE to achieve for the country a 60-percent energy self-sufficiency level by 2010.

To help reach this goal, the DOE and other key energy-related agencies of the government are coming up with ways to exploit the country's indigenous energy resources, including oil and gas.

BUSINESS Friday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Ventures come from most unexpected places

By Salvador I. Sibayan
UP ISSI

YOU'VE been an employee for some time, but not getting anywhere. Your salary is not enough. You've been retrenched and no longer employable. The job is no longer exciting. In fact, it's downright boring.

Do these gripes sound familiar? If yes, what do you do? Sulk? Accept your lot? Well, some did. But others did something else. They put up their own business, many of which had the most inauspicious of beginnings.

Maldwyn, after earning his degree in Fine Arts, major in editorial design, joined a government printing office. He would often sleep in the printing press to make sure the publication comes out on schedule. But at the same time, he observed and studied how the press was run. He learned about designing brochures, magazines, and other publications of the clients of the printing press.

After a year, however, he resigned because he was no longer happy with his job.

He then struck out on his own - designing greeting cards and having these printed by nearby printing presses.

When he decided to print these himself, he bought—because of budgetary limitations—a very old, second-hand machine. It proved to be such a lemon that he was forced to job out his clients' orders, just to meet his commitments.

But finally, after nine months of hardship, he fixed the machine and his Design Plus made a profit.

Then there are those who got a college degree, but ended up running businesses they did not learn about in school.

Academic training

One such entrepreneur is Elaine (not her real name) who belonged to a landed family and graduated with a Commerce degree. Her only involvement in farm activities was to count the money to be given to the farmers, whenever they sold their share of the sugar after the milling season.

In the mid-60s, she left for the United States with her husband. While he pursued graduate studies in biology and later did research on diabetes, Elaine worked at various times as a bank teller and real estate broker.

After some 20 years, they decided to go back to the Philippines. Once her husband settled into his new job, they had a house built in a subdivision south of Manila. Unfortunately, just a few months into the construction, the builder left for the US, taking with him Elaine's deposit.

What she had left was a house that was a work in progress—and the builder's workers and construction equipment.

Desperate, Elaine called on her college friends (and even suitors) who were either architects or engineers to help her. Since her friends had clients in the same subdivision, they were only too willing to help—for merienda.

Her friends advised her not to get a contractor but to supervise the construction herself. They also taught her how to read the construction plans.

Next, she constructed the house of her nephew in Quezon City. She used the same people who built her house. This was fol-

VENTURES/ B2-3

ALFONSO Salcedo Jr.of BPI Family Bank

RUDY ESPERAS

'Show Me, Teach Me, SME!'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

FEW would argue that most Filipinos have what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur. The bustling "underground" economy, estimated to be worth as much as 0.5 percentage points of the Gross Domestic Product, should silence the cynics.

The problem, however, is most of these entrepreneurs—from the neighborhood cooks to the corner craftsmen—start and end in the underground.

They never break the surface due to factors such as lack of additional capital and, simply, the right knowledge to move their business from the backyard to the factory or the mall.

The Bank of the Philippine Islands recognized this financial and knowledge gap, thus, it developed its "Show Me, Teach Me, SME!" - a program to help improve the operations of small- and- medium enterprises—through BPI Foundation Inc. and consumer lending arm BPI Family Savings Bank.

BPI Family president Alfonso L. Salcedo Jr. says under the program, interested entrepreneurs are first given a free half-day session on the basics of putting up and running a business.

Topics covered include the types of business organizations; analysis of strengths and weaknesses; introduction to generally accepted accounting principles; understanding the income statement and balance sheet; analysis of financial statements; and construction of the cash flow statement.

Providing inspiration are SMEs that started small but ended up in the big leagues.

These include Paz Legaspi, Freyvonne Milling Services and Coco Oil Production (Davao); Eduardo Tiongson, Fisherman's Grill and Restaurant (Pampanga); Antonio Ynoc, Prime Movers and Courier Services (Cebu), Plaridel de la Cruz of Colette's Buko Pie (Batangas); and Lydia Songano of Joroshely Motors (Iloilo).

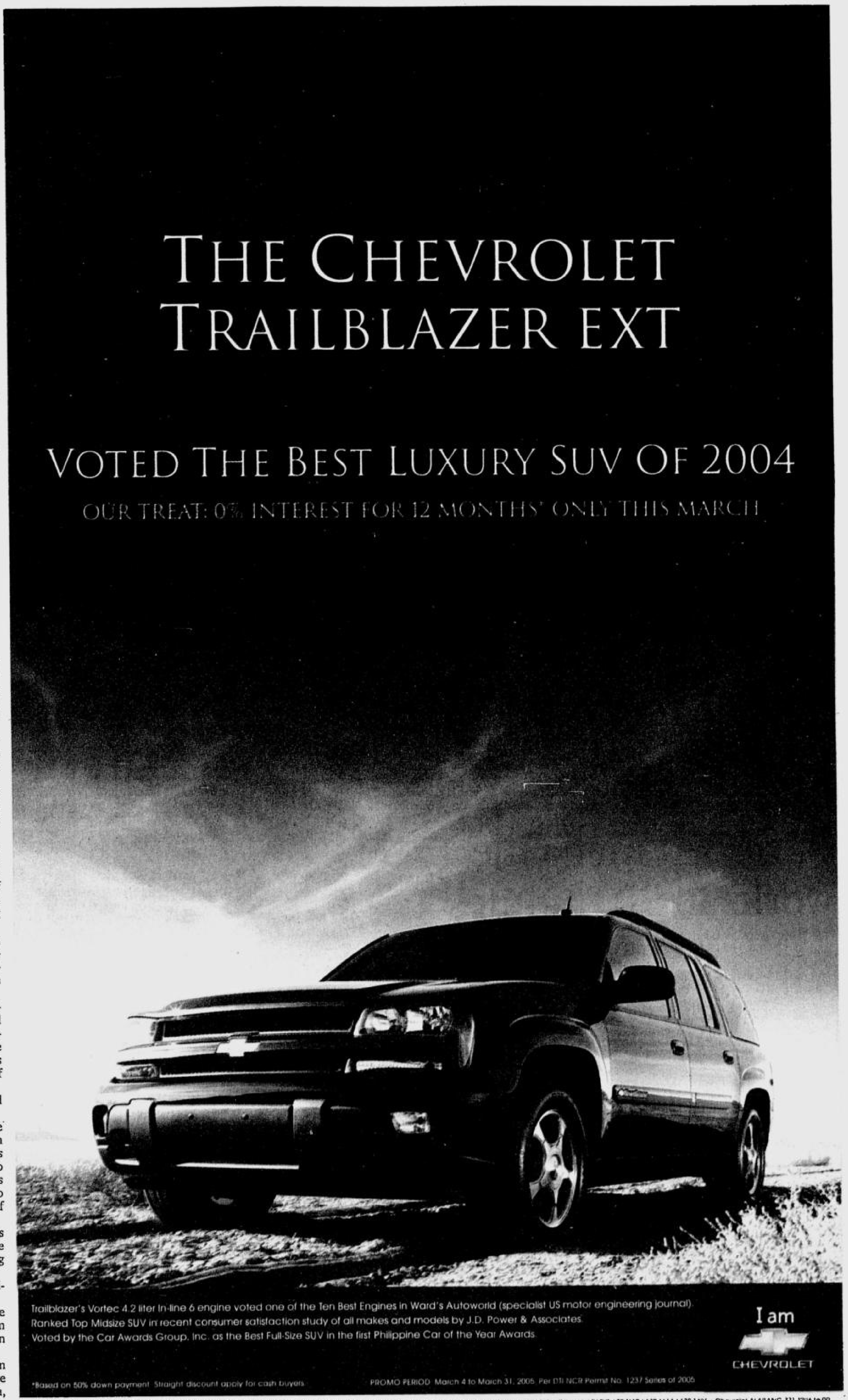
BPI employee-volunteers then follow this up with a 90-day mentoring period where they give participants one-on-one coaching on financial and credit concepts.

They become partners in growing the business.

Qualified to participate in the program are SMEs with an asset size of between P3 million and P15 million and a workforce of less than 100.

The "Show Me, Teach Me, SME!" program started in the middle of last year and has since been brought to Cebu, Davao, Iloilo, Naga, Dagupan, Metro Manila and Batangas.

SHOW/ B2-3



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People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

NMPI sets X-Trail celebration this weekend

TO CELEBRATE Nissan X-Trail winning the Compact SUV of the Year, Nissan Motor Philippines Inc (NMPI) will be holding a special promotional weekend today and March 12 that will assure buyers of the X-Trail and other NMPI products an exciting visit to Nissan showrooms.

On top of the low-downpayment and low monthly schemes for selected X-Trail and Sentra variants, NMPI will be giving away P1 million in raffle prizes to buyers who will troop to any authorized Nissan dealer in Metro Manila today and March 12.

"In line with X-Trail winning the Best Compact SUV Award in the 1st Car of the Year Awards (Coty), NMPI will be giving away P1 million in raffle prizes today and tomorrow (March 11 and 12), and will offer attractive financing packages for the whole of the month. This should be one weekend Nissan car buyers should never miss," explained Dennis Chang, AVP for marketing and sales at NMPI.

Among the financing packages that will be made available to buyers for the whole of March starting today are a downpayment as low as P111,000 for the X-Trail 200 (4x2), P45,400 for the Sentra 180GT and P39,900 for the Sentra GS (1.6) A/T, and a monthly as low as P10,600 for the X-Trail 200 and P5,200 for the Sentra GX (1.3) M/T. It will be only this weekend that NMPI, through its Metro Manila dealers, will be raffling off P1 million in prizes.

The X-Trail 200 is the 4x2 sibling of the X-Trail 250X that went head-to-head with the top-of-the-line compact SUVs of the competition in the separate evaluations of Coty and C! Magazine, which also chose the X-Trail as the Best Compact SUV in its 1st 10 Best Cars Search. In the evaluations, the X-Trail also went up against the compact SUVs of luxury brands, and emerged victorious, proving its mettle as a best seller.

"What can be more convincing than the X-Trail topping the evaluation of two groups choosing the best vehicles sold in the Philippines in each segment?" Chang said.

The X-Trail is presently NMPI's hottest seller. Last year, it accounted for 52 percent, or 2,976 units, of the 5,727 vehicles sold by NMPI through its dealers in 2004.

Data from the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines Inc (Campi) showed the X-Trail topped the compact SUV charts in June and from August to December last year, allowing it to grab a strong second spot to the Honda CR-V, which had sales of 3,158 units in 2004.

While the X-Trail has won its share of nods from the tough-minded motoring journalists and hurdled the monthly compact SUV sales charts, the greatest accolades it has received so far are from its buyers, who were instrumental in spreading word of mouth about its excellent attributes.

"The strong sales of the X-Trail last year proved it already gained its loyal followers, who in turn spread word of mouth about it. What else can we say considering our advertising on the X-Trail was substantially low compared to competitors. That says a lot about the X-Trail," Chang said.

The X-Trail is equipped with the "All-Mode Four Wheel Drive" system, where in Auto Mode, the "no-slip on start-ups" feature gives the X-Trail power on all four wheels when the accelerator pedal is depressed. The X-Trail's computer system does the disengaging of 4x4 when it is not needed.

With this feature, the X-Trail can excel offroad without losing traction since the four wheels operate each time the accelerator is depressed.

The X-Trail is powered by QR-series 2.5 and 2.0-liter engines, which deliver 180PS and 150PS, respectively. Equipped with CVTC or Continuous Variable Timing Control, the X-Trail's engines are known for their ample torque, responsiveness and smoothness.

The comfortable ride comes from its aluminum front transverse links along with the trapezoidal rear struts and long stroking shock absorbers, which work in unison to stabilize ride and smoothen the bumps.

GLOBE PLATINUM PRESENTS NORAH JONES

This year, Globe Platinum brings to the Philippines today's best selling music artist, acclaimed jazz singer Norah Jones. The eight-time Grammy Award winner is coming to Manila for a one-night-only concert on March 12 at the Araneta Coliseum. Globe Platinum subscribers get a 20-percent discount on ticket prices. Globe Platinum is also hosting pre-event cocktails at the Gateway Mall in Cubao and an exclusive post-concert party at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel lobby. All Platinum subscribers are invited to join in this celebration of the inimitable style and power of Jones' music. Shown are Globe representatives signing the sponsorship agreement with the concert's producer and organizer, ALV Events International. Standing (from left) are: Globe Girlfriends senior marketing manager Marie Paynor, StratsPlus president Bong Paderna, and Globe Platinum senior product manager Cookie Uy; seated (from left): Chris Sy of EMI, ALV president Arnold Vegafria, and Bubbles Barretto of Globe Telecom corporate marketing. Tickets to the Norah Jones Live in Manila concert are available from ALV (633-9825) and at all Ticketnet outlets.

BENCH SPONSORS NORAH JONES MANILA CONCERT

Bench, the apparel megabrand, recently signed up as one of the major sponsors of the Norah Jones' Manila concert on March 12 at the Araneta Coliseum. The concert marks the 7th leg of the jazz/pop singer's ongoing Asian tour. Shown, from left, are Arnold Vegafria, president, ALV Events International, Jojo Liamson, Bench advertising director, and Bong Paderna of StratsPlus, marketing arm of ALV Events International.

Gov't earns P316M in taxes, duties from Harbour Centre in January

THE GOVERNMENT raked in P316 million in taxes and duties from the operations of private commercial port Harbour Centre Port Terminal in January this year.

This was reported by Customs Collector Hermogenes Caylan III, citing a total of 79,459 taxable packages coming to Harbour Centre, which accounted for 80 percent of cargoes that entered Manila during that month. Around 50 percent of the cargoes handled by Harbour Centre were steel products.

Caylan said the P316 million taxes comprised a total of 180 entries from Jan. 3 to 28, with consumption items and steel accounting for the bulk at 129 and warehousing 38. The rest were Epza and local transshipment items.

This developed as the volume of foreign cargoes handled by Harbour Centre continued to surge, jacking up its January to December 2004 figures to a whopping 2 million metric tons of different non-containerized cargoes.

It was revealed by Harbour Centre chief executive officer Michael M. Romero, confirming reports that the company contributed substantially to the Bureau of Customs' surplus collection of P308 million last January.

Former Customs Commissioner George Jereos had attributed previous collection surpluses significantly to the big volume of importations of steel and bulk cargoes at the Harbour Centre.

For the January period, the P308-million surplus surfaced from preliminary figures placing Customs collections at P10.691 billion against the target of P10.383 billion.

Meanwhile, bulk cargo accounted for the biggest chunk or 46 percent of Harbour Centre's total foreign volume, followed by steel at 38 percent.

Nonetheless, the increase in volume came across the board, covering all product segments of the foreign non-containerized market.

The volume surge has been attributed to Harbour Centre's faster turnaround time, better facilities and services, and more reasonable rates than the government-owned ports in Manila.

Harbour Centre is also the country's first and only private commercial port to gain certification for its world-class security.

Effective for two years, the certificate issued by the Office for Transportation Security (OTS) specifically attests to Harbour Centre's compliance with the provisions of the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS).

The ISPS code is a mandatory measure adopted by the Philippines as a member state of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

As the country's only privately owned and operated commercial port, Harbour Centre has been handling both foreign and domestic cargoes.

However, Harbour Centre's foreign cargo-handling operation is limited to only non-containerized or bulk and break-bulk cargo pending the Philippine Ports Authority's long-awaited approval of its application to handle containerized shipments.

AMA intensifies English Language Program

EFFECTIVE this school year, AMA Education System will require all its students to take up 24 units of intensive English classes, which are heavy on grammar, public speaking, and American English diction. One of the key emphasis of AMA's English program is on spoken American English proficiency, which is expected to put the graduate of any AMA school at a communication advantage over their peers and could be the start of what Dr. Patrick Azanza, AMA's SVP for academic affairs, calls the "AMAnian accent." Azanza also mentioned that this move to improve students' American English proficiency is aligned with the demand of the global market, especially the call center industry, for American English-speaking people.

AMA English Language Center director Jim Barbosa is confident that "AMA graduates will have a double advantage: they are not only highly skilled in IT but also equipped with excellent communication skills." The English curriculum of AMA is presently being reengineered with the expert assistance of former UP College of Arts and Letters Dean Vivencio R. Jose, and other consultants, including those from Infonxx, a leading call center, that now has a standing partnership with AMA on faculty training and placement of qualified AMA graduates.

A series of trainings on English Language Proficiency for all AMA faculty and administrative staff has also been in place since late last year. To make sure everyone puts into practice what they learn, English-speaking zones were designated like the library, offices, classrooms and laboratories.

Another important feature of the AMA English Language Program is what is known as the "English Plus", a bridging program that will allow incoming high school graduates to take classes or sessions that will help them cope with the communications skills requirements at the college level.

Pfizer ED medicine works in 20 minutes

FOR THE majority of men with erectile dysfunction, it will only take 20 minutes to achieve "quality" erection. This is true at least for those taking sildenafil citrate.

A study presented at the recent European Society for Sexual and Impotence Research meeting, involving 228 men, found that 51 percent of men with ED taking sildenafil citrate achieved an erection that resulted in successful sexual intercourse within 20 minutes.

The study involved participants aged 60 years old on average, had ED for an average of seven years, and a majority had moderate to severe dysfunction. They were randomized to receive either placebo or sildenafil citrate. Results showed that within 14 minutes of taking sildenafil citrate, 35 percent of men achieved at least one erection that resulted in successful sexual intercourse. A majority of men (51 percent) achieved this response within 20 minutes.

According to Dr. Mike Sweeney, senior medical director, urology group leader of Pfizer, the results of the study demonstrate the ability of sildenafil citrate to meet the needs of real world ED patients.

Since its introduction in the market as the first oral medication approved to treat ED, sildenafil citrate has dramatically changed how the condition is viewed, discussed and treated throughout the world. Sildenafil citrate is the first oral treatment for erectile dysfunction that has been found to be effective and well tolerated in over 100 completed and ongoing clinical studies. It is currently being studied as a possible treatment for stroke, pulmonary hypertension and heart enlargement.

Launched in 1998, sildenafil citrate has received several recognitions, including the United Kingdom's Queen Award, the Prix Galien and inclusion in the book "Inventing the 20th Century: 100 Inventions That Shaped the World."

Sildenafil citrate may only be purchased with a doctor's prescription. With the proliferation of counterfeit medicines, patients are encouraged to buy only from reputable drugstores. Sildenafil citrate is contraindicated in patients who use nitrates in any form at any time.

Advances in technology and research have paved the way for the successful treatment of ED, although many men are still afraid or shy to talk about the condition with their doctors. A public service program will soon be launched to encourage men to visit their doctors and seek help to improve their sexual health.

This health information is made possible by Pfizer, a global, research-based healthcare company that discovers, develops, manufactures and markets effective and innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the best-known consumer products. In 2004, Pfizer, the world's largest private biomedical research organization, invested more than $7.5 billion to find cures to help preserve, protect and promote the quality of life of people all over the world.

Bits & Clips

Eastwood City for women

EASTWOOD City, the country's premier satellite city, celebrates International Women's Day through a month-long celebration for women through a special lineup of activities geared at applauding womanhood. For the hobbyists, there are several arts and crafts workshops to choose from. Designer Blooms conducts a workshop on flower arrangement on March 15, 2 to 5 p.m. at the City Walk 2. Unleash your inner Picasso with lessons from master Fernando Sena in his still life and portraiture demo and workshop at City Walk 2 on March 17. Craft World will have a series of classes at Eastwood City. It's Fashion Accessories Weaving on March 11, Stained Glass Etching on March 16, and Glass Etching on March 18. All classes will be held at the Eastwood Cinema Lobby from 2 to 4 p.m. For more details, call 0917-8-EWCITY.

Int'l rugby festival

IN LINE with the accelerated program for rugby development in the country, the Nomads Manila 10's International Rugby Festival slated from March 11 to 13 is undeniably the biggest rugby event of 2005. This year, 28 visiting teams from 16 countries will vie for the title of grand champion. The real game begins Saturday, March 12 at the Nomads Sports Club in Parañaque and a street party at the Handlebar will follow that night. The competition heats up on Sunday with all the teams trying to win trophies in their respective levels of the competition. And then, when trophies have been awarded to the winners, Highway 69 will play its own brand of music and end the festival with a big party on the field at the Nomads Club. Members of the Philippine Representative Team will participate in the Kowloon 10's Rugbyfest on March 15.

RP-made furniture at Greenhills

TOURISTS and local and foreign buyers looking for Philippine-made furniture and furnishing can visit the 12th National Furniture, Furnishing & Fashion Festival to be held back-to-back with the 1st Philippine Folk Arts & Crafts Festival from March 11 to April 3 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex. They can also buy other world-class Philippine products. The 24-day trade fair is organized by Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers (Patepco), a leading exhibit organizer for 19 years. Interested parties can call Patepco at 826-8162 or 820-3862 and look for Jun Reyes or Ariel Villanueva.

PSEM confab

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism (PSEM), a premiere organization made up of a diverse group of physicians, invites general practitioners, internists and anyone who shares their interest in endocrinology to participate in its annual convention on March 12 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati. This year's theme is "Clinical Guidelines in Endocrinology". The convention will be heralded by the launching of the 1st Augusto D. Litonjua Lecture of Distinction on March 11, 5:30 p.m. at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. For more information, call the PSEM secretariat at 633-6420 or 637-3162.

UP Vanguard homecoming

THE 2-DAY UP Vanguard Homecoming activities will start with the Grand Fraternity Ball at 7 p.m. on March 11 at the Marharlika Hall, Casino Filipino in Parañaque City, where this year's UP Vanguard Oblation and UP Vanguard Achievement Awardees will be honored. On March 12, the traditional whole day UP Vanguard Convention and Homecoming Rites will be held at University of the Philippines-Diliman. Registration starts at 11 a.m. To confirm attendance, UP Vanguard members may call the Vanguard Secretariat at 920-6891 and 920-6881.

Vios Club gathering

ALL TOYOTA Vios owners are invited to join one of the fastest growing auto clubs in the country. Vios Club Philippines invites you to join their "7th Gathering" at the parking lot of West Gate, Alabang, on Saturday, March 12 at 4 p.m. Meet new friends, join their activities, have lots of fun. For more details, log on to www.ViosClubPhil.com.

Ventures come . . .

From page B2-1

lowed by other requests. Unknowingly, she earned another degree—from the school of hard knocks—and a business in the construction field.

There are many cases of "learning by doing," although perhaps not as scary as what Maldwyn and Elaine went through.

Learning by doing

In the case of Cora, she took up accounting in college. Like many others, she started as an accounting clerk in a private firm.

When she passed the board exams, she was promoted to senior accounting clerk, but this did not last. Her husband, who by then was running a profitable business, asked her to resign and be a full-time housewife.

When her late son showed an interest in orchids, Cora—with time to spare—would take him to Farmers' Market to buy plants. Pretty soon their yard was full of orchids, and passers-by would stop and ask if some of these were for sale.

Later, she and her son would bring their orchids to UP Los Baños during its annual garden show. It was then that she realized that there were commercial possibilities.

To augment what she knew from experience, she attended a week-long course on orchid growing. Her son would later do the same, despite having taken horticulture in college.

In the next 30 years, Purificacion Orchids diversified and expanded operations.

Then there's Boy, with a degree in engineering, and Ana, a fisheries graduate, who resided near a subdivision and a commercial area.

There was no bakery in Moonwalk Village at the time, and Ana's mother brought up the idea of putting up one. Both did not know a thing about baking. But knowing what they didn't know, they attended baking seminars and food demonstrations.

Armed with the basics, they started Moonbake with a loan of P50,000 from a friend.

Some entrepreneurs capitalized on hand-me-down recipes.

Joey, with his wife's help, would standardize the production process for Lapid's Chicharon. Daisy, on the other hand, improved on his father's formula for making kropeck—a product that would give rise to Daisy Food Products.

Others would start by buying foodstuffs wholesale and repacking these for retail. As they established their markets, they would go into manufacturing as Beth and Celso did with Toscano Enterprises.

Still others would bank on their personal interests, like Pinky, whose flair for design put her on the road to making bags under the "Heartstrings" label.

What do they have in common? Flexibility, adaptability, and creativity. Hard work and industry. Faith. Ability to survive. These are the strengths of the Filipino character.

And the weaknesses? Lack of discipline. Passivity and lack of initiative. Emphasis on fluff, instead of substance. These strengths and weaknesses were identified more than 20 years ago. Sadly, nothing has changed much.

These Filipinos that did well in their chosen fields used their strengths, rather than emphasizing their weaknesses. Rather than letting the situation dictate their circumstances, they took it upon themselves to use the situation to improve their lives.

You might say that they have the capital. But many more started with just a little money, from their apartment, garage, or kitchen. One even used the sidewalk. They used their private cars for early deliveries.

Even before they began in earnest, they must have pushed their pencils, computing here and there. And as they nurtured their business, they improved their products or services, or their systems and procedures.

Suppose you were asked, "What would you do if you had capital?" If you have a good answer, it just might be a good business idea whose time has come.

Creative body hopes to boost ad industry

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

CREATIVE Guild's powerhouse cast. Back row: Jun Carangan, Nathan Javier, Peter Acuña. Front row: David Guerrero, Randy Aquino, Bing Beltran and Marci Reyes. PHOTO BY ANDY MALUCHE

THE CREATIVE Guild of the Philippines, the creative body of the 4As (the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies), formed this year's working group with AB Communications creative director Bing Beltran elected president.

Lilit Reyes, two-term outgoing head of the guild, describes his successor: "Bing is known for his fairness and long years of experience in the Guild and Advertising Congress competitions." And adds that Beltran will bring a level of maturity to the Guild wherein "integrity and fairness" is an important trait for this highly competitive industry.

The Guild's high profile events are the Ad of the Month creative competitions which culminate in the Ad of the Year awards, plus, the Camp Creatives, a workshop for young aspiring talents who have the opportunity to represent the country in international young creative competitions. Beltran, however, is concerned with the relatively low number of entries submitted into the competition—less than a quarter of the agencies in the country enter work.

To boost participation and rekindle excitement within the creative community, Beltran and his team plan to inject "star-appeal" into the Guild's activities through a series of "parties and advertising festivals which are exciting catalysts." He recalls the time when industry stars like Mon Jimenez, Yoly Ong, Emily Abrera, Minyong Ordoñez would draw in the crowd. "People wanted to be invited and be part of the awards night. It was a big deal."

The Creative Guild, Beltran hopes, should represent the creative standard of the industry. Creative workshops; screening of the latest award-winning TV commercials from around the world like the recent Gunn Report screening; monthly creative competitions; regular consultative meetings with the 4As—all aim to serve this purpose. But before working on the Guild's vision for this year, "a creative face-lift is needed" which he says past president Lilit Reyes has been working on for the past two years.

This year's Creative Guild Officers: Being Beltran, creative director, AB Communications as president; David Guerrero, chair & chief creative officer, BBDO Guerrero Ortega as vice president; Nathan Javier, creative director, JimenezBasic as board secretary; Jun Carangan, creative director, Campaigns & Grey as treasurer; Peter Acuña, creative director, McCann-Erickson as PRO., Marci Reyes, creative director, TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno as director for competitions, Randy Tiempo, creative director, Ace-Saatchi & Saatchi as co-director for competitions; Leigh Reyes, executive creative director, Y&R as director for industry; and Chris Belardo, creative director, Image Dimensions as director for ways and means.

'Show Me, Teach Me, SME!'

From page B2-1

Saledo says there were plans to conduct these seminars across the Philippines as part of BPI's thrust to put more focus this year on helping SMEs get that much needed access to capital and expertise.

"These sessions are inspiring to me because the entrepreneurs showed that they were able to succeed despite everything. We want to help them do even more," Salcedo says in an interview.

Data from the Department of Trade and Industry showed that almost all of the 1.4 million establishments set up as of December last year—at 99.7 percent—are classified as SMEs, with asset size of less than P100 million, and a maximum workforce of 199.

These SMEs account for 69.1 percent of total employment, but only 32 percent of the total value added to the economy. The large enterprises still account for 68 percent.

The SME's contribution to the economy is way below the average performance of the SME sectors in other parts of Asia.

Data showed that the SMEs in South Korea provide 47 percent; Japan, 56.7 percent; Indonesia, 63.11 percent; and China, 68 percent.

BPI was confident that its program to improve the SME's knowledge to markets, information, technology and financing would help raise the productivity of the SMEs, and consequently, their contribution to the economy.

On the financial side, BPI Family Bank will offer starting this year a loan with a fixed rate of 12 percent for five to 12 years to help SMEs manage their cash flows in a volatile market.

Salcedo says qualified SMEs could avail themselves of a maximum loan of P20 million to start or expand their business.

"This translates to about 1 percent a month, which should be good enough for the SMEs. If there is one thing that they want is certainty on the rates. That is why we chose to offer a fixed rate loan," he says.

BPI Family Bank has set aside a fund of P5 billion to finance its programs for SMEs, which account for 26 percent of BPI Family Bank's loan portfolio.

"We really have to help develop the SMEs. That is the way to go," Salcedo says.

In so doing, more SMEs will hopefully move from the underground and into the light.

PHILIPPINE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
36th National Marketing Conference
May 25 – 26, 2005
Westin Philippine Plaza
MARKETING CONVERGENCE

EXTREME MARKETING CHALLENGE :
THE ROAD TO CONVERGENCE

PROGRAMME

DAY 1 : May 25, 2005

Morning Sessions

8:00 – 9:30	Registration/ Networking/ Morning Coffee
9:30 – 10 :15	Opening Ceremonies
10:15- 11:15	Session One : **A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy** A presentation on the business philosophies surrounding extreme marketing that have maximized marketing potentials in a challenging convergent environment aptly applied to the Asian Region as well as the local scenarios
11:15- 12:15	Session Two : **The Taste that Conquered the Nation Now Conquers the World** Insights of successful ventures of home grown concepts in the food business that managed to converge its products and services to meet the demands of a converging market both in the local as well as in the global setting
Lunch Break	

Afternoon Sessions

1:30 – 1:45	Ice Breaker
1:45 – 2:45	Session Three : **Pain Makes Gains : Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain** Proven local brand strategic applications in the pharmaceutical business that challenge global market leaders and players in creating ideal synergies for a convergent market
2:45 – 3:45	Session Four : **The New Empire : Shaping the Future of High - Rise Condominiums** Guiding principles in braving the battle against big brothers in the real estate business despite the threatening and unstable socio-economic scenarios affecting business growth
3:45 – 4 :00	Break
4:00 – 5 :00	Session Five : **Marketing Superiority Through Super Events : The "Incredible" Story** Creative marketing executions that enliven the palette of consumers using convergent applications of events marketing thus bringing product promotion to extremely challenging standards
5:00 – 5:15	Recap by Session Chair

DAY 2 : May 26, 2005

Morning Sessions

8:00 – 9:15	Networking Coffee
9:15 – 10 :15	Session 6 : **Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru** A discussion on strategic principles of extreme marketing as presented by the world-reknowned Hermawan Katajaya
10:15-12:15	Session 7 : **The Telecommunications Industry (Illustration)** Part 1 : **Revealed : Telecommunications Convergence: Challenge to the Extreme!** Current trends and future strategic directions of the highly evolving telecommunications industry amidst the challenge of simultaneous product and market convergence Part 2 : **The Call Center Phenomenon : Converging Global Business Interests** A deeper analysis of the fast expanding call center commerce and its significant role in the convergence of business interests around the world
Lunch Break	

Afternoon Sessions

1:00– 1:15	Ice Breaker 2
1:15 – 1:30	Agora Awards Launch / Other PMA Activities
1:30 – 2:30	Session Eight : **Mall Mania : Shop Until You Drop !** Revelations in the bullet-speed growth of the retail industry and the magnetic attraction of a converging business to a market mix of unique styles but common interests
2:30- 3:30	Session Nine : **New Rules in Market Leadership : Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing** Non-traditional rules applied to traditionally common practices that have created raves in the banking sector.
3:30 – 3:45	Break
3:45 – 4:30	Session Ten : **Creativity on the Edge : Media & Marketing Convergence** Strategic partnering innovations that unify media creativity and marketing excellence gearing to meet the challenge of convergence
4:30 – 5:15	**Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor** A compilation of the interesting facets of humor in advertising that has sent light messages to the market but delivered solid bottom results to target sales
5:15 – 5:45	Closing Session : **The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence** A presentation of Ingenuous approaches for business revivals and growth in a converging market
5:45 – 6:00	Recap by Session Chair

* Topic title may slightly vary

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BUSINESS Friday

Tax implications of the Tourism Act of 2004

By Ma. Fides A. Balili and Rodolfo O. Reyes
SGV & Co

TAX-FILES

RECOGNIZING that tourism is one of the largest industries in the world that can bring in the much needed dollars to fuel our economy, Sen. Richard Gordon filed Senate Bill No. 1834, entitled "The Tourism Act of 2004." This bill is pending in Congress but has already gone through several technical committee hearings.

The bill has three major objectives: (i) the reorganization of the Department of Tourism (DOT); (ii) the establishment of the Tourism Economic Zone Authority (Teza) and tourism enterprise zones (TEZs); and (iii) the establishment of Tourism Philippines, which will merge the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) and the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. (PCVC) into one body. The proposed establishment of the Teza and TEZs carries with it the proposed grant of tax incentives.

Income tax holidays

Similar to locators in special economic zones established under the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza), the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Clark Development Authority (CDA), investors in TEZs will be entitled to several tax incentives.

Section 51 of SB 1834 proposes to grant TEZ-registered enterprises an income tax holiday (ITH) of five years from the start of operations, extendible for another five years provided the TEZ-registered enterprises undertake a major expansion or upgrade of their facilities. The additional period will be computed in the proportion that the cost of the expansion or upgrade bears to the total assets of the TEZ-registered enterprise.

As the name implies, the income tax holiday will exempt the TEZ-registered enterprise only from the payment of income tax. Hence, such enterprise will not be exempt from the payment of other taxes, like VAT, documentary stamp tax (DST), excise tax, and other national internal revenue taxes.

Under existing laws, the income tax holiday granted by the BOI or Peza is either four or six years, depending on whether the enterprise is pioneer or non-pioneer, extendible for another two years for pioneer enterprises, depending on several factors such as ratio of capital equipment to labor, foreign exchange earnings or savings, or the use of indigenous raw materials. Investors registering with the BOI or Peza may avail of the above-mentioned ITH, including investors in tourism activities. With the passage of the Tourism Act of 2004, the Teza will now administer the ITH incentive for investors in tourism activities that locate in TEZs.

Preferential tax regime

Under SB 1834, after the ITH of the TEZ-registered enterprise expires, it shall be entitled to a preferential tax rate of 2-3 percent on gross income, in lieu of all national and local taxes, depending on the amount of investment and the number of persons employed. The secretary of tourism and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) are to prepare the implementing rules of this provision.

Unlike the ITH, the preferential tax regime will exempt the TEZ-registered enterprise from all national and local taxes including, but not limited to, VAT, DST, excise tax, local business tax and real property tax. This is similar to the Peza's incentives. However, under the RA 8748 amendment to the Peza Law, the exemption from real property tax was removed since most local governments rely heavily on the same for their revenue sources. As currently worded, SB 1834 exempts the TEZ locators from the payment of real property tax.

The 2 percent to 3 percent tax on gross income shall be shared as follows: 1/3 to the local government unit concerned; 1/6 to Tourism Philippines; 1/6 to the Teza; 1/6 to the national government; and 1/6 to a special fund for preservation of local culture, heritage sites and environment in and around the TEZs. Again, the rules governing this provision shall be drafted by the DOT and the BIR.

Exemption from customs duties/taxes

Unlike the special economic zones under the Peza or the freeports created by law, like Subic Bay Freeport, Zamboanga Freeport and Cagayan Freeport, the TEZ is not proposed to be treated as a separate customs territory but merely as a special designated area. As such, Section 51 of SB 1834 proposes to exempt all importations of capital goods into a TEZ for use by a TEZ-registered enterprise from the payment of customs duties and taxes. This means such importations will be exempted not only from customs duties, but also from VAT on importations.

However, this exemption applies only to capital goods, i.e. equipment, machinery, materials, and not to finished consumer products which are allowed to be imported by those located in the legislated freeports cited above.

Other tax incentives

TEZ-registered enterprises shall likewise be entitled to incentives provided for in other incentives laws, provided there is no conflict and double enjoyment.

If there is an overlapping of incentives, the TEZ-registered enterprise must choose only one incentive regime. This merely means that if the TEZ-registered enterprise desires to avail of incentives that are available under Peza or the BOI, but are not available under the draft bill, it may so avail of the same.

However, should there be an overlapping of the incentives being availed of, the TEZ-registered enterprise may only choose one incentive regime with respect to that incentive being sought.

In addition to these tax incentives, Section 54 of the bill allows TEZ-registered enterprises who shoulder the cost of restoring material cultural heritage within a TEZ in accordance with the rules and regulations issued by the National Historical Institute, to fully deduct said costs for income tax purposes.

Moreover, income derived by construction firms from such restoration works shall be exempt from tax.

Other tax implications

In connection with the proposed establishment of Tourism Philippines, SB 1834 proposes (i) to allow hotels and other accommodation establishments full deductibility from gross income of the cost of major expansions, renovations and upgrading of facilities, and (ii) a hospitality tax of 5-10 percent on the lease of rooms by accommodation establishments not located in TEZs.

While hotels and accommodation establishments welcome the deductibility of the cost of major expansions, renovations and upgrading of facilities from their gross income, they have expressed reservations about the hospitality tax which they claim will drive up the cost of the rooms. There is light at the end of the tunnel, however, in that the bill's sponsor has expressed openness to a fee of $1 to $5 per head in lieu of this hospitality tax. The reaction of hotels and accommodation establishments to this possible change has not yet been elicited or discussed in any formal hearing. It would therefore be interesting to know their position given that the intent of the bill is to channel this tax, along with proceeds collected from travel taxes and operations of Duty Free Philippines, to Tourism Philippines.

SB 1834 clearly intends to harmonize and rationalize the tourism efforts of this country to spur economic growth. Given that tourism is the world's largest industry in terms of dollar earning capacity, and the recent events (albeit unfortunate) that have befallen our neighbors in the region, focus on tourism as the engine of growth is indeed timely.

The grant of tax incentives specifically for tourism-related investments may serve as the impetus to attract the much-needed capital to establish new tourist sites, enhance historical and cultural attractions, and improve existing accommodation establishments and basic tourism services. If the desired integration and rationalization of the tourism industry through the reorganization of the DOT, as well as the establishment of Teza, TEZs, and Tourism Philippines, comes to fruition, we may yet see, in the not too distant future, the kind of tourist visits that Malaysia (15 million tourists per year) and Thailand (12 million) are currently enjoying.

Finally, SB 1834 should be considered in the light of HB 3295, or the Omnibus Incentives Bill, which was filed in Congress by the Department of Trade and Industry to harmonize all incentives schemes currently in place.

Case of the confused MBA student

(Part 2)

MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

LAST Friday, we gave the first half of our Marketing Rx to this confused health-meals entrepreneur/MBA student crying out for help:

"My low-calorie, low-fat meal (product) will be delivered to customers who will sign up on a plan like, for example, a 7-day plan of 7 lunch meals and 7 dinner meals. I'm planning to market this directly by tying up with fitness gyms and doctors and dietitian-nutritionists.

"So, how should I go about marketing? Who are my competitors? What would be the substitutes? How should I compute the market gap?

"I am so overwhelmed by the data I have been browsing. I don't know if the restaurant, fast food industry will be my competitors, or the 'diet industry' such as Herbalife. I will highly appreciate the insights and tips you may be able to give." *—Mrs. J. Cruz, entrepreneur and MBA student*

Here's the final part of our answer (For those who missed the first part, log on to www.Inq7.net and do an internal search for "MarketingRx." Our columns are archived on the Inq7 site).

Who are your competitors?

Let us invoke marketing's basic answer to the issue of: "Who is your correct competitor?"

We've repeatedly argued in this column that, in marketing, the correct definition and identification of your competitor is not up to you. Rather, this is up to your target consumers. After all, they are the ones who will decide to buy, not you.

So, ask your potential consumers in the fitness gyms where you will be allowed to sell your packaged meals in their premises: "Where do you go for your lunch/dinner?" Or, "where do you source your lunch/dinner meal?"

The answers define your competitors, or what you called "substitutes" for your packaged meal. Do this "survey" yourself because you don't have the budget to use a professional survey agency. Do this "survey" as well with the dieting patients who are in the clinics of doctors and dietitian-nutritionists who will allow you to sell your packaged meal to their dieting patients.

If you allow your target consumers to define your competitors, instead of relying on what your data tells you, we're quite certain your target consumers won't count fast-food restaurants and Herbalife as the substitutes or competitors to your packaged meal. The most likely competitors they'll name would be your nearest substitute, the South Beach diet.

You missed mentioning this because you allowed your mind to be drowned by browsed data overflow or MOI infection. Your target consumers will also probably designate a not-so-near substitute, natural food products from the likes of Healthy Options. To be certain, ask your target consumers. Survey them no matter how rough and tough it is to ask.

The answers to the questions we just outlined will also meet your concern for computing what you called "the market gap." Of course, this is true if what you mean by market gap is what "competitive lunch and dinner meals" (as your target consumers have defined them) are not able to satisfy among their priority meal values, or are able to satisfy but inadequately.

As you can see, the key consideration is to start where your target consumers are, not from where you are, with your browsed data as sourced from the Internet's data warehouse on consumers of "restaurants, fast food industry and the diet industry."

Your priority should not be on having a lot of data. Place your priority on correctly analyzing those broad ranging data. Correctly analyzing means asking yourself what are the data that are relevant to your marketing strategy. Use your basic marketing concepts for this relevance-screening task.

If you bear in mind your basic marketing concepts, there's another important angle and requirement of "relevance" that you will be able to satisfy. This has to do with the need for you to define your target market segment in a consistent manner.

Consider your referring to your target consumers as also "the AB and upper C market who prefer convenience and are health conscious." Even if you qualified these two market segments as being those "who prefer ...," the number of consumers they cover will still be in the tens, if not in the hundreds, of thousands.

Magnitude of marketing task

In a previous Friday Marketing Rx column, we took a good amount of space explaining the marketing concept of "the magnitude of the marketing task" (MMT). We did this because it's a very strategic and practical concept that has been neglected by the marketing literature. And this concept is useful in your fight against your "Market-Analysis-Paralysis" viral infection.

The MMT concept requires you to ask yourself what is the magnitude of your task in marketing your packaged meal. More specifically, how many buyers of your packaged meal plans do you need to have in order to attain your target top-line revenue at your targeted profit? How many customers do you need to source from your fitness gym business partners, and from your doctor/dietitian/nutritionist business partners to attain your business objectives? (Answers to this latter question give you your estimate of your revenue split, the sources of your target total revenue.)

Without knowing the exact number—because you said you will do direct marketing and deliver to your signed-up customers—we doubt if your MMT will be more than 1,000 a day. Your delivering capacity won't match that MMT size.

So determine your PTM segment according to, and consistent with, your chosen direct marketing strategy and capacity. Your thinking in terms of a PTM segment of "AB and upper C market, who prefer convenience and are health conscious," is too big and inconsistent with your direct marketing strategy and capacity.

It is the other option of choosing an NOS-defined segment of customers of "fitness gym, and doctors and dietitian-nutritionists" that is the more actionable and the more consistent choice of PTM segment for you.

Because of your limited servicing and delivering capacity, your target customers are countable within a fraction of an hour.

Value of an MBA

Allow us to end by qualifying our MBA caution.

What you have to guard against in your MBA training is the premium that an MBA program may place on quantified facts and figures. Lower the priority ranking of this mindset. Place on top of it, the priority on your mastering, instead, basic marketing concepts and logic that will serve as your guiding framework in sorting the relevance and application of the quantified facts and figures to your marketing strategy and objectives.

That is where a truly useful MBA program can empower you in becoming a better entrepreneur. That is where you will find the necessary vaccine against being overwhelmed by data, or against MOI and MAP viruses. Finally, that is also where you must source your screening when you are choosing an MBA school and MBA professors.

Email your questions and comments to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

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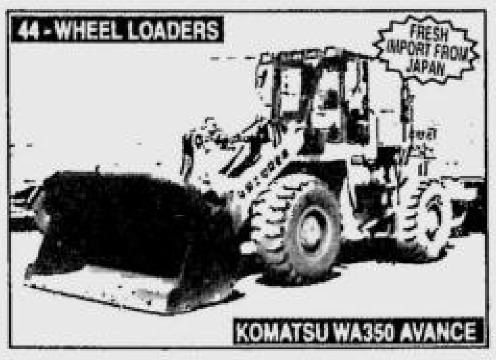

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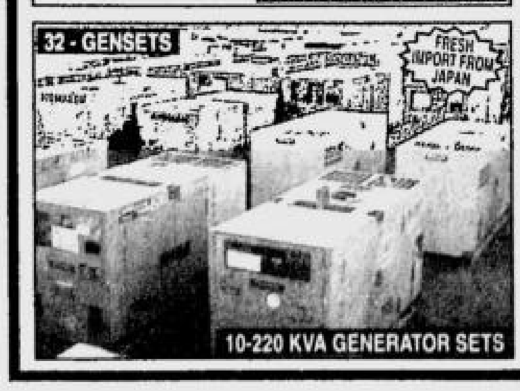

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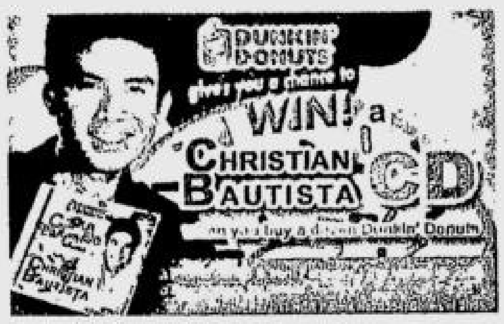

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Surviving Milan

Thanks to the Ole Henriksen skincare line, the fashion week proves less daunting for the skin

THE AUTHOR pre-Pucci but dressed in Chloe

MORE than just a face cream, Invigorating Night Gel Firming Treatment can also be used as a firming neck cream and around the eyes.

By Kitty Go
Contributor

AS soon as I got into London after two weeks in the French Alps, my skin looked exactly like I had been skiing… downhill.

To the English who see the sun only two weeks a year, my face had a healthy glow. But to me who knew the difference between the color of health and the color of cooked shrimp, the reality of my skin tone being the latter was obvious. It was certainly no Color me Beautiful and surely not the face I wanted to present to my adoring public at the Milan Fashion Week a few days later.

What better time to road test the Ole Henriksen skincare line than when I was desperate?

Surely '80s supermodel Linda Evangelista, who refused to get up for less than $10,000 a day, cannot be wrong to trek all the way to the Ole Henriksen salon on Sunset Boulevard in Los Angeles. (She seems to be having a career resurrection like Cindy Crawford—enough already!)

Renée Zellwegger gets her face Oscar-ready at Ole's, where the client list reads like an Academy Awards night list of nominees: Charlize Theron, Madonna, Christy Turlington, Halle Berry, Kylie Minogue, Naomi Campbell, Barbra Streisand.

Renewing

Probably the best thing I ever did for myself was apply Sheer Transformation-Renewing Cream over Invigorating Night Gel-Firming Treatment a couple of days and nights before leaving for Milan (yes, I was that desperate) because of course, guess who I ran into on the plane?

Suzy Menkes from the International Herald Tribune (IHT) who remembered me from the IHT Luxury Conference in Hong Kong last December. Do I think she would remember me if I had skin as scaly as a mackerel in the color of cooked shrimp? I think not.

Invigorating

A very tired-looking Plum Sykes (author of the best-selling novel, "Bergdorf Blondes") in a stylish fur jacket was also on my flight and if I didn't apply Invigorating Night Gel Firming Treatment on my eyes, I think I would have looked worse than the battered Louis Vuitton suitcases many fashionistas checked in.

Certainly crying over the personal (but not business) break-up of Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabanna, which we found out that day, would not help in my looks department.

Refining

The first show on my schedule was Pucci at 9 a.m. the next day. This was not good because that meant I had to get up early and the whole idea behind going to Milan was to escape having to wake up early, as my husband demands of me every morning at 6:30, "to feel (his) pain."

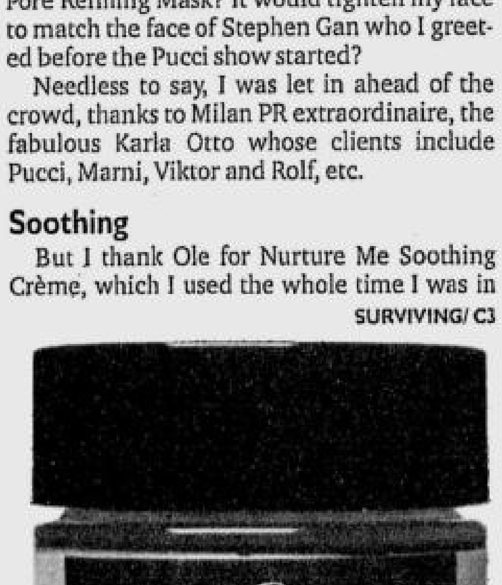
What would instantly refresh and lift sleep-deprived skin but Ole Henriksen's Firm Action Pore Refining Mask? It would tighten my face to match the face of Stephen Gan who I greeted before the Pucci show started?

Needless to say, I was let in ahead of the crowd, thanks to Milan PR extraordinaire, the fabulous Karla Otto whose clients include Pucci, Marni, Viktor and Rolf, etc.

Soothing

But I thank Ole for Nurture Me Soothing Crème, which I used the whole time I was in

SURVIVING/ C3



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making great things possible Globe HANDYPHONE

THREE babes in a club. Angelique Villaraza, Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta and Mariko Jacinto PHOTO: EDDIE BOY ESCUDERO

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THE MASTER and his queen. Renowned photographer Rupert Jacinto with wife, talented designer Tina Hidalgo ESCUDERO

HARD-ROCK star and the governor. Pucci looks great on Vicky Zubiri, with her favorite Gov. Joe Zubiri. ESCUDERO

All white and bubbly birthday bash

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BRILLIANT gourmand **DJ Montano** held his "White and Bubbly" birthday bash at the one-of-a-kind Embassy restaurant.

The theme was gorgeous white. And so there were "white ice" (diamonds) for the ladies, and flowing bubbly champagne, natch, for everyone, *palanggas*.

The super fab dinner was by the talented chef **Fernando Aracama**, no less. Among the gastronomic delights were Chawan Mushi with Miso Marinated Foie Gras plus Foie Gras Tortellini in Kaffir scented Miso Broth; and Apple Salad with Toasted Almonds and Cider Vinaigrette plus Citrus Gravlax with Tobiko on Taro Chip.

The pièce de résistance was the divine Crispy Lapulapu with Sesame Beurre Noisette and Caper Relish plus Pan-roasted Chicken with Potato Croutons and Cherry Tomato Salad.

Smoothing down the food was Moet et Chandon Champagne and Absolute Vanilla, all laid out beautifully on the table, which screamed with white chrysanthemums and white candles.

Later, the guests moved over to the swinging Embassy Super Club, where white hors d'oeuvres greeted us.

At the private VIP lounge, the decor had an awesome look, perfectly done by brilliant **Miguel "Migs" Rosales**.

Mirror balls, white balloons, sequins splashed on the tables; white roses and white candles had the guests, sighing in approval.

The barmen and waiters, were all dressed in white T-shirts with "Cheers DJ," embroidered on them. Now that's real classy, *palanggas*.

Then it was partying time, dance, dance and dance some more to pulsating house and retro music by DJ **Jon Herrera**, the music man himself.

Rocking the floor with high energy, included my palangga, free-again **Celine Lopez**; **Marco and Jackie Antonio**; *moi*; my pal **Pepper Teehankee**; **Gippy and Hindy Tantoco**; **Tim Yap**, Mr. **Supha** himself, who always made sure all was going well, (which it was); **Philip Cu-Unjieng**; top architect **Anton Mendoza**; **Chut Cuerva**, **Robbie Carmona**, **Rhett Eala**, **Kate Torralba**, **Sinai and Sigalit Djemal**; **Cindy Kurleto**, always-free **Patrick Reyno**; **Mimi and Juliet Tan**; **Pauline Suaco Juan**, **Agoo Bengzon**, **Myrza Sison**, **Teddy and Janine Dario**; **Atom Henares**, **Victor Consunji** and his love, **Ginggay Andrada**; **Heidi Ng**, superman of Metro mag **Carlo Tadiar**; **Ito Feliciano** and his soul mate **Luis De Terry**.

To the boy of the hour, thank you for your well organized bash! DJ Montano, you're sooo cool.

Cheers, *palangga*.

Book for all seasons

Founded in 1936 by Dr. **James Go Puanseng**, the popular Philippines Yearbook of the Fookien Times, now under the helm of his youngest daughter, multifaceted woman of substance, **Grace Glory Go**, no less, launched its 2005 edition at the Italian resto, Ciao, of the swinging and upbeat Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati!

The publisher and talented editor in chief, **Vernon Go**, the 14th grandchild of the founder, reinvented this internationally recognized chronicler of our nation's progress, *palanggas*.

This year's edition features the defenders of our heritage. "Despite the odds that seem to weigh against the progress of our nation, there are indeed many Filipinos who have devoted their energies to a noble purpose," Vernon Go. "And the Philippines and the world have to be made to recognize these efforts. We chose to honor these individuals not as posthumous footnotes, but as living testaments to our proud nations."

To thank their loads of pals and advertisers, who, for seven decades, have supported the Philippines Yearbook, a *tres* simple but sincere thanksgiving cocktail was held. As Vernon Go in his publisher's note said, "I would like to thank the advertisers... and our Lord God who picked us up from the many pitfalls a large unwieldy project like this presents along the way."

Needless to say, dahlings Cosmo Manille's hotshot namedroppables came in hurricane force to congratulate the Go's.

Check the Yearbook out. It's one of those must-have books for your library or coffee-table, *palanggas*.

Cell glam

When the world-renowned Nokia says "fashion!" Cosmo Manille's hip fashionistas take notice.

So there we were for Nokia's fashion collection to complement its three sleek and glam cell phones—the Nokia 7260, Nokia 7270 and Nokia 7280. The show was beautifully hosted by **Parikshit Bhasin**, the tall, well-respected and simpatico country general manager of Nokia, no less.

The event had the glitzy social register tres visible. The show was directed by **Robby Carmona**, *natch*, with ultra mod creations by **Dennis Lustico**, **Rhett Eala** and **Randy Ortiz**. The emcees, **Angel Jacob** and my supha pal, Tim Yap, got the show going, dahlings.

Watching the show was exotic beauty queen **Miriam Quiambao** who jetted in from Hong Kong. **Johnny Litton** chatted with Bellevue Hotel's **Ryan Chan** and her pal, **Tamila Tapales**, while gorgeous **Joyce Jimenez**, who couldn't say enough of the cool drink, breezed through with **Bianca Valerio**.

In full Nokia fashion force were marketing and communications manager **Pamela Galang**, product manager **Luanne Erni** (looking great in a Kate Torralba creation, which showed off the custom prints of the newest Nokia collection), and product managers **Mike Smith** and **Rhomel Marcojos**.

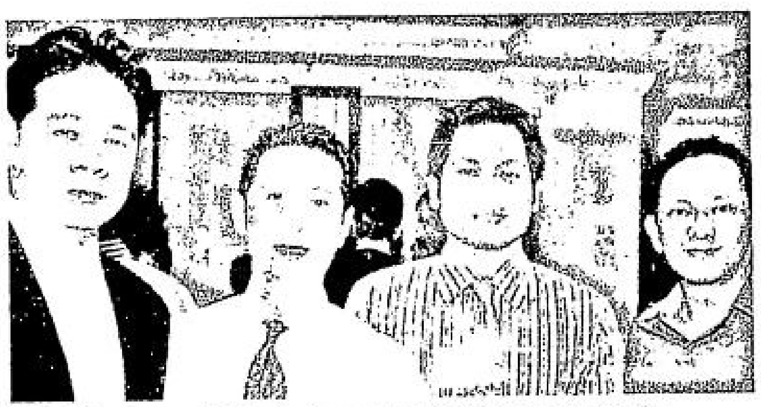
Also in the audience was world traveler **Josephine Knox**; Metro Society's **Lia Bernardo**; **Mia Borromeo** and **Raul Manzano**, with an excited **Toffer Vidal**; **Karen Santos**; INQUIRER's Just Shop gal **Jenni Epperson**; **Celine Lopez**; and Bridges public relations head **Annie Ringor**, who was very pleased with the reception.

OUR PRINCE of the night. Multi-faceted gourmand and linguist DJ Montano ESCUDERO

ELUSIVE bachelor Ricky Delgado has his arms full with just as elusive bachelorettes Giselle Sityar and Ria Francisco. ESCUDERO

A PENNY for your thought. I love you Celine Lopez, *palangga*. ESCUDERO

HEY, what's so amazing? Gippy Tantoco with Wendy Puyat and her favorite Tony—Tony Hotung ESCUDERO

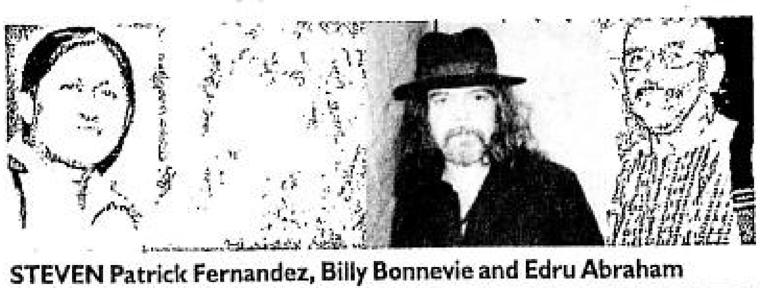


MEN of substance in the business world Arthur Young, Mario Katigbak, Andy Disyadej and Raymond O'Santos

FRANCIS Lim with Argentine Ambassador Mario Schuff; Czech Republic Ambassador Stanislav Slavicky; philantrophist and one of Manille's best dressed Baby Arenas; Grace Glory Go, hostess of Philippine Yearbook launch; Singapore Ambassador Lim Kheng Hua and Consul Ceferino Benedicto

RUSTAN'S prime asset Malu Francisco and Vernon Go

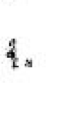
SILK COCOON'S Jeanne Goulbourn and Inter-Continental Hotel's cybersmart PR manager Jennifer Peña



STEVEN Patrick Fernandez, Billy Bonnevie and Edru Abraham

BRILLIANT Kevin Belmonte, businessman Bob Garcia, Erlinda Villanueva, Celia Samson, People Asia editor in chief Joanne Rae Ramirez

HARUHIKO Terada and Dusit Hotel mega GM Ikuo Itoi



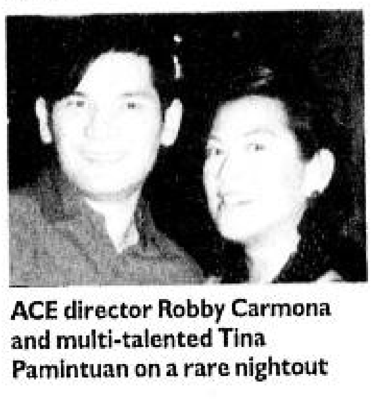
MASANOBU Kubo

NOKIA marketing and communications manager Pam Galang and boy of energy Tim Yap

BEAUTY queen Miriam Quiambao and brilliant Nokia country manager Parikshit Bhasin

PLEASED AS PUNCH. *Tres charmante* Madame Raijini Bhasin and Nokia mega product manager Mike Smith

SUPER PALS. Jon Jon Rufino and Bridges@Com's Leash Caringal



ACE director Robby Carmona and multi-talented Tina Pamintuan on a rare nightout

CUDDLY TWO. Niño Zulueta and Angela Romero Salas

OLEHENRIKSEN
Sheer Transformation Creme
LITE TEXTURE
Crème Métamorphose
Texture légère
Net Wt. 2 Oz./57 g

OLEHENRIKSEN
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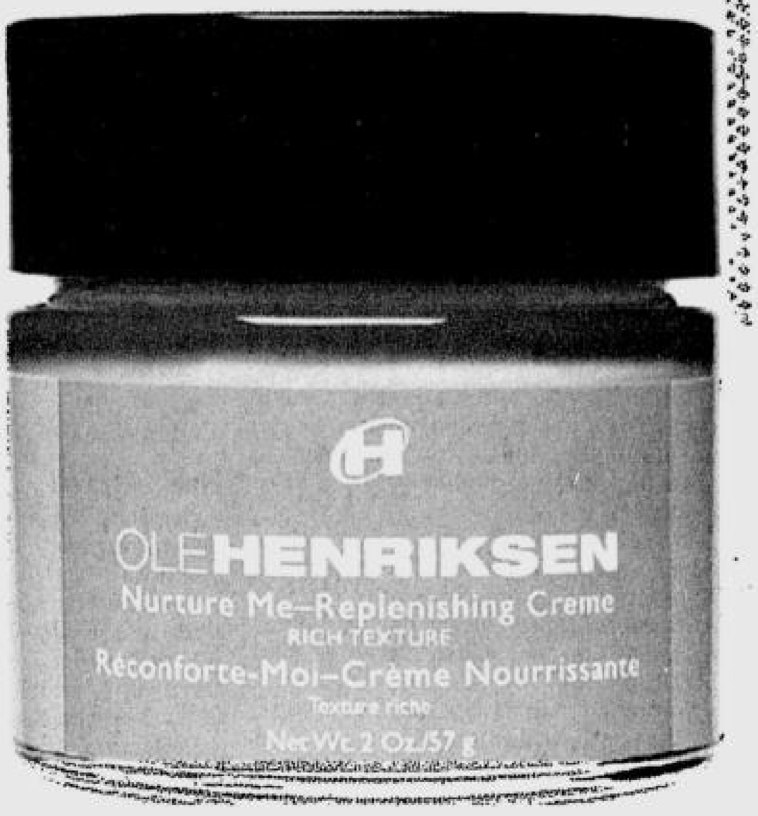
LITE TEXTURE
Crème Métamorphose
Texture légère

SHEER savior: Retexturizing properties of fruit acids combined with the soothing and balancing properties of sandalwood, geranium, comfrey and chamomile help make Sheer Transformation Renewing Crème a must-have beauty treatment.


OLEHENRIKSEN
Nurture Me–Replenishing Creme
RICH TEXTURE
Réconforte-Moi–Crème Nourrissante
Texture riche
Net Wt. 2 Oz./57 g

RESCUE me. Nurture Me Soothing Cream is made of wheat germ, primrose and rose oils to create a nourishing but non-oily skin cream perfect for sensitive skin, strengthening skin's defenses and guarding against environmental aggression.

Surviving Milan

From page C1

Milan through rain, snow or both. Not to mention extreme cold outdoors and cactus-melting heat indoors.

Without this light textured but very moisturizing skin cream, my face would have frozen in time like Michael Jackson's. Not a very good look for Jackson in and out of court and certainly not a good look for anyone if everyone else around you looked a thousand times better than you. (This is how I always feel in Italy as opposed to Indonesia where I feel like a beauty queen.)

So at the Marni show where I craned my neck trying to get a glimpse of Anna Wintour sans shades and the very well-dressed Hamish Bowles, the flamboyant Anna Piaggi (former editor of Italian Vogue), didn't mind when I literally buried my head in her psychedelic fur which made Joseph and his Technicolor Dream Coat look like a classic trench.

The Ole Henriksen line is available at Beauty Bars in Rockwell's Powerplant Mall, Ayala Center's Greenbelt 3 and Glorietta 2 and Robinson's Galleria

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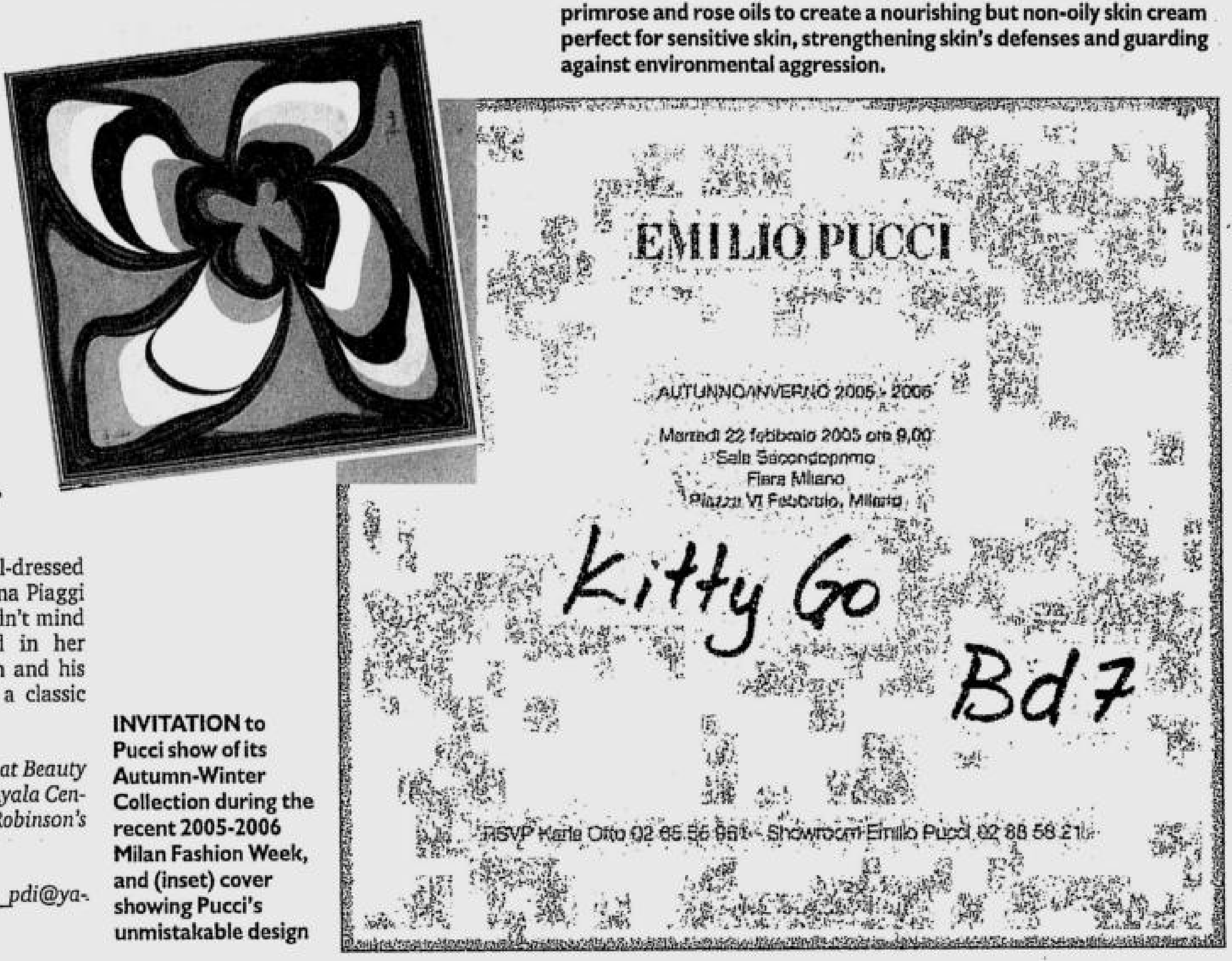


EMILIO PUCCI

AUTUNNO/INVERNO 2005 - 2006

Martedì 22 febbraio 2005 ore 9,00
Sala Secondoprimo
Fiera Milano
Piazza VI Febbraio, Milano

Kitty Go
Bd 7

RSVP Karla Otto 02 65 56 981 – Showroom Emilio Pucci 02 88 58 21

INVITATION to Pucci show of its Autumn-Winter Collection during the recent 2005-2006 Milan Fashion Week, and (inset) cover showing Pucci's unmistakable design

A NEW FORMULA FOR A TIMELESS LIPSTICK...

LANCÔME LIPS ARE MORE VOLUPTUOUS THAN EVER WITH THE NEW LE ROUGE ABSOLU ! FOR THE EMBLEMATIC COLOUR OF WOMANKIND TO GLOW AND GLISTEN ON ALL LIPS, LANCÔME REINVENTS ITS GREATEST CLASSIC LIPSTICK AND MAKES IT ABSOLUTELY IRRESISTIBLE !

LE ROUGE ABSOLU CONTAINS A TOTALLY NEW FORMULA FROM THE LANCÔME LABORATORIES WHICH GIVES COLOUR INCREDIBLE SHAPING AND REPLUMPING PROPERTIES THANKS TO A UNIQUE COMPOSITION AND MOISTURISING AGENTS. THIS IS THE ABSOLUTE COMBINATION OF COLOUR AND LIPCARE.

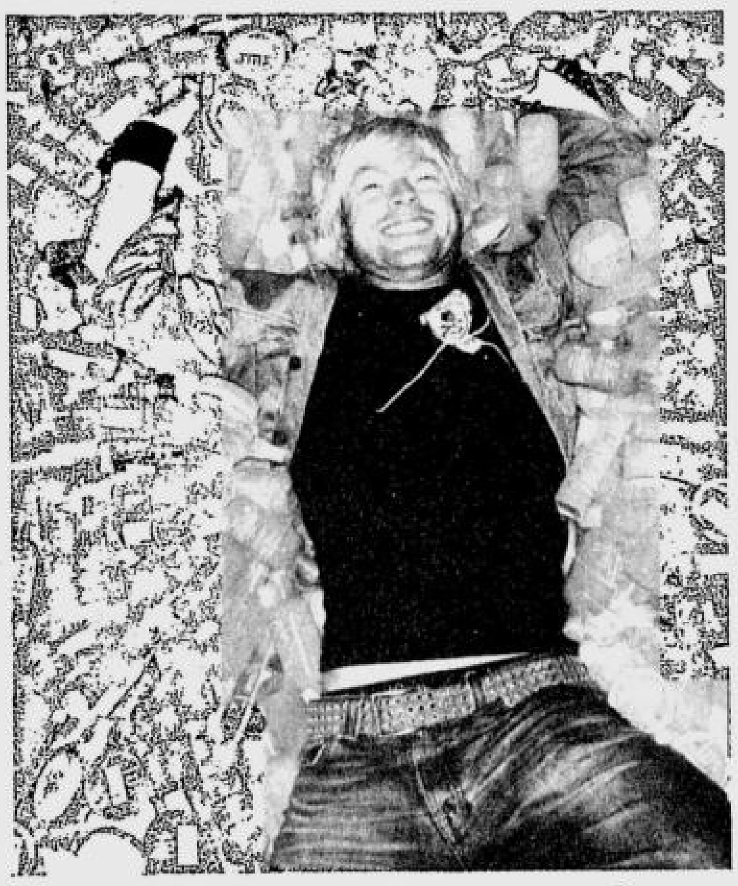
P1,295.00

LANCÔME reinvents its classic lipstick with Le Rouge Absolu. It contains a totally new formula from the Lancôme laboratories that gives color incredible shaping and replumping properties, thanks to unique composition and moisturizing agents. A great combination of color and lipcare.

so magic
so magic!
so magic!

A PINK, fresh, vibrant and luscious fragrance, almost too delectable to be really true. On the inside of the bottle, Miracle So Magic! opens onto a dreamy and deliciously familiar world. Here the only thing that can happen is wonderful surprise. An experience of bliss and a fragrance of celebration lingering in the air. The emotion—so close, so light and so magic, and the sudden obvious realization that life can be beautiful. Miracle So Magic!, the soul of Miracle, the Juicy Spirit in a fragrance.

Say no to frizzy hair



LONDON celebrity hairstylist Lee Stafford

SUMMER means fun in the sun, but the hot dry season can also wreak havoc to your hair. As the temperature rises, so does the chance of having frizzy, hard-to-control hair that will leave you spending more time contemplating bad hair days rather than enjoying the great outdoors.

London-based celebrity hairstylist Lee Stafford has come to the rescue with Poker Straight Dehumidifier, an ingenious styling product that will tame those tresses into submission and leave you with a sleek, straight, shiny 'do, no matter what the weather is outside.

Poker Straight Dehumidifier is a light and gentle solution enriched with Mega Quat to help flatten, smoothen and condition hair. It provides a protective outer layer on the surface of the hair to ensure hair looks and stays straight all day long.

Use Lee Stafford Poker Straight Shampoo and Conditioner as the first steps to getting stick-straight hair. Follow up with Lee Stafford Poker Straight Dehumidifier.

Lee Stafford is available exclusively at Essenses.

POKER Straight Dehumidifier

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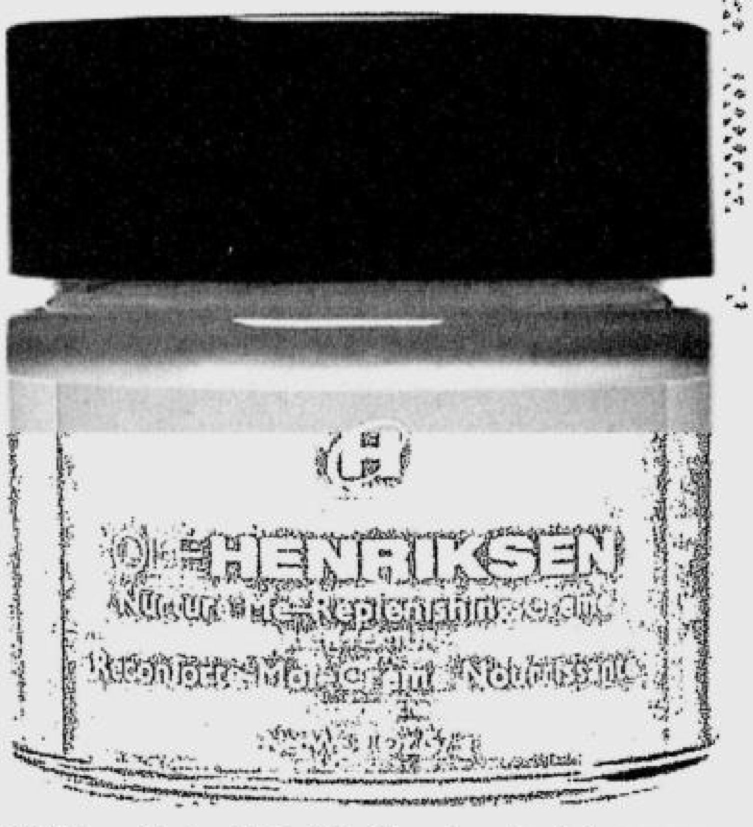

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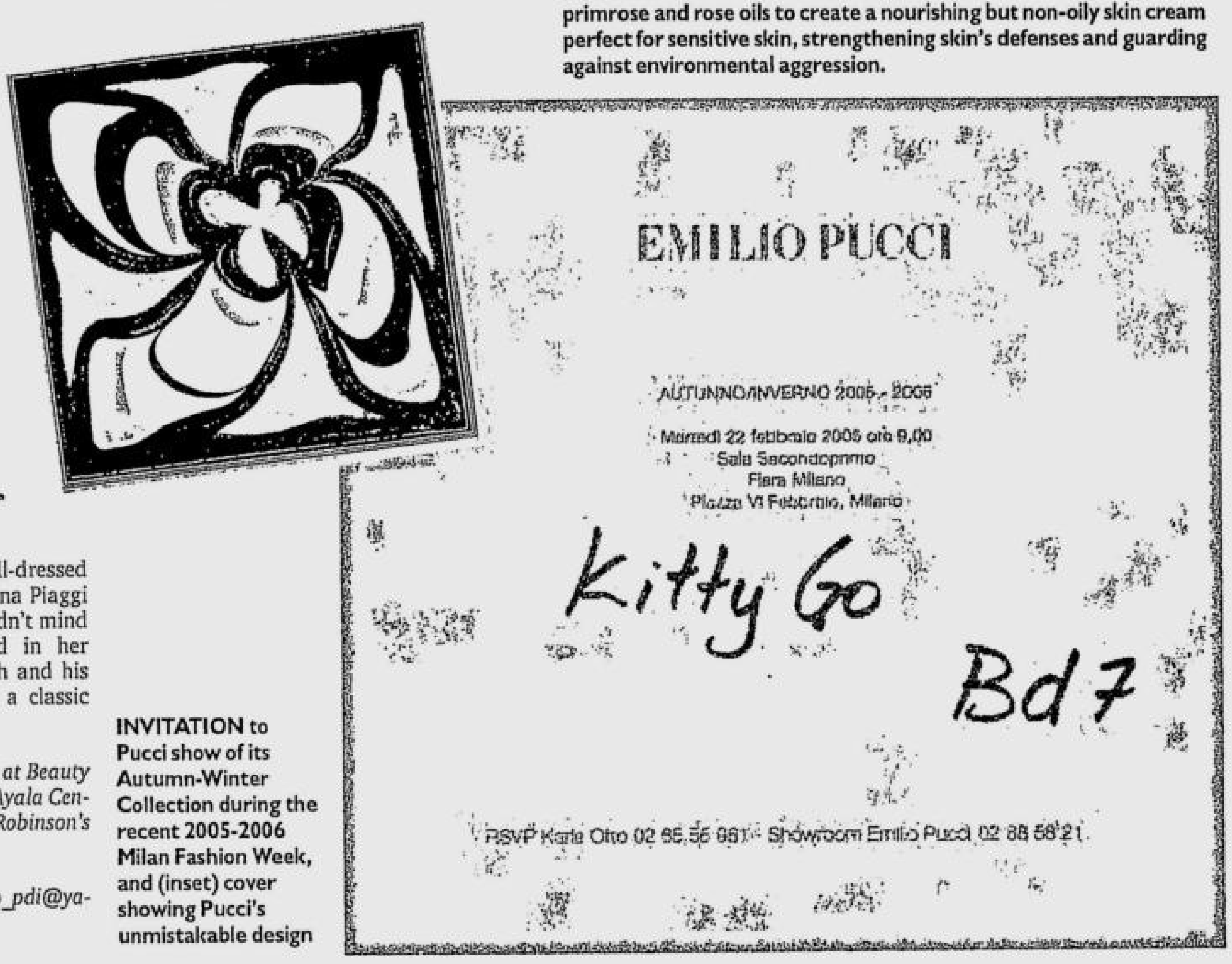

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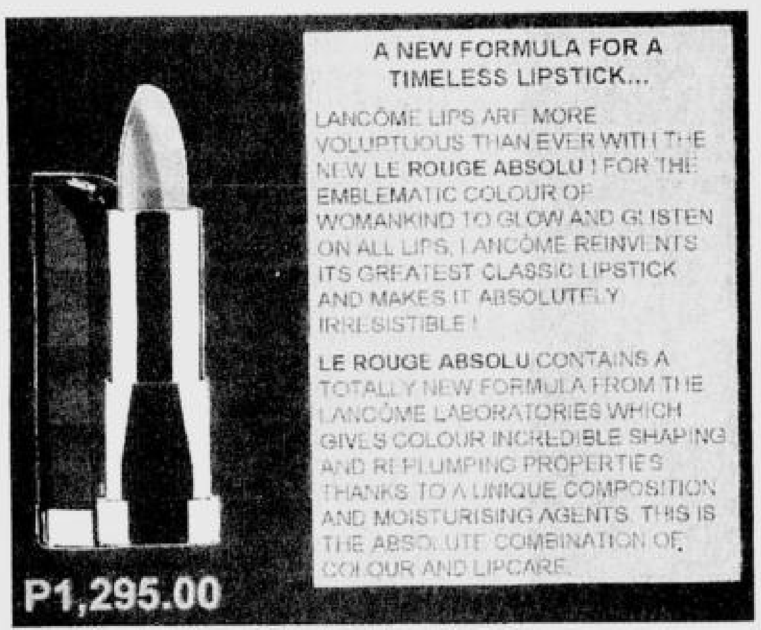

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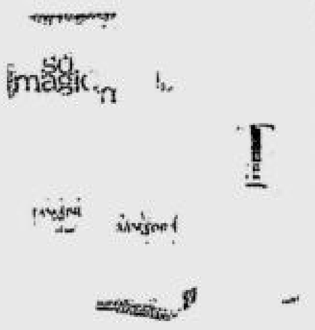

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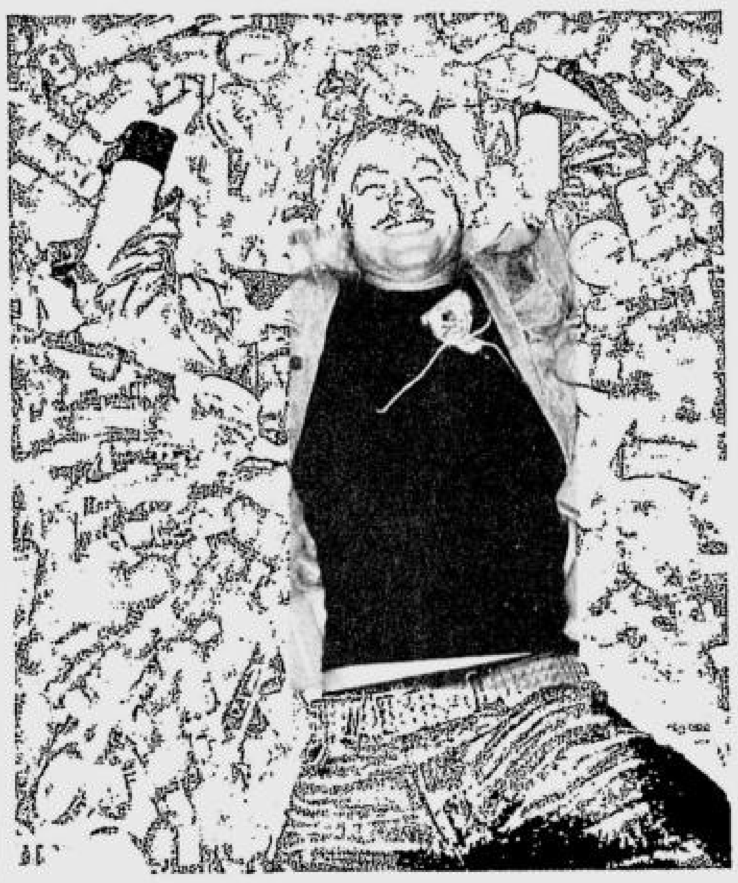

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Quality service without the high price tag

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

ONE OF my biggest thrills is discovering something great which comes at a very reasonable price tag. My newest discovery is a great salon which has a very homey and warm atmosphere.

United States-trained hairstylist Tinette Ozamis-Puyat has been running Tinette & Co. since 1996. It came highly recommended from a favorite aunt of mine who is a salon connoisseur.

The very clean but simple salon was a contrast to the people I saw inside. They were the who's who of Philippine society, the likes you would see in society magazines like Metro and Tatler. Can you get any flashier than that?

This prompted me to ask for the price list. Let's just say the prices were reasonable even if the salon had prestigious brands such as Kerastase, and also tecni.art and imported hair dyes. I was so excited by the prices I had an entire list of treatments done.

Hair removal

Lyn and I bonded the most. She waxed my underarms, legs, bikini area, upper lip and eyebrows.

They had two kinds of waxes, Epilin (no cloth) and Honey Wax (with cloth).

Very knowledgeable about her craft, Lyn asked if I used exfoliant astringents or tretinoin cream like Retin A because if I did, then she would refuse to do my eyebrows and upper lip but would instead recommend threading.

Apparently, those who use tretinoin are in danger of having the top layer of their skin yanked off. Epilin, which is cheaper and hurts less, was used for my underarms and Brazilian bikini wax (very fast and almost painless).

She used Honey Wax for my legs, upper lips and brows, which she also tweezed to clean up.

You can even bring your own wax and cloth and they will knock off 50 percent and just charge you for labor. The Body Shop has good wax with cloth strips and Epilin is sold at any PCX or First Aid store.

Nails

Carol did my manicure, which was a squarish oval that would still allow me to type while still looking elegant.

Jasmin did my pedicure and shaped my nails to a pretty semi-square. (My toes were begging to be shown off. I will never go back to perfect square again, as the semi is much sexier.)

TINETTE Ozamis-Puyat and the author

The girls had very light hands and informed me right away if my requests would incur additional charges. I chose OPI nail lacquer in Big Apple Red and was informed right away it would cost an extra P45.

Haircut and styling

Despite her extensive training, Tinette only charges P725. She also gave me my va-va-voom hair for a day. Today, almost three weeks later, my hair still has that elusive body and bounce my fine, thin and limp hair has always craved.

Check out the photo. I made it a point to go out that evening.

Tinette listens to one's needs and will work on a compromise with the customer. For instance, I told her I wanted to keep my hair long but full of body. We agreed to trim my damaged ends and shape my hair. Senior stylist Josie then blow-dried my hair, giving me tips along the way.

Apparently, blow-outs (straightening) are aimed above the head and hair. Those who crave for volume should aim the blow-dryer underneath.

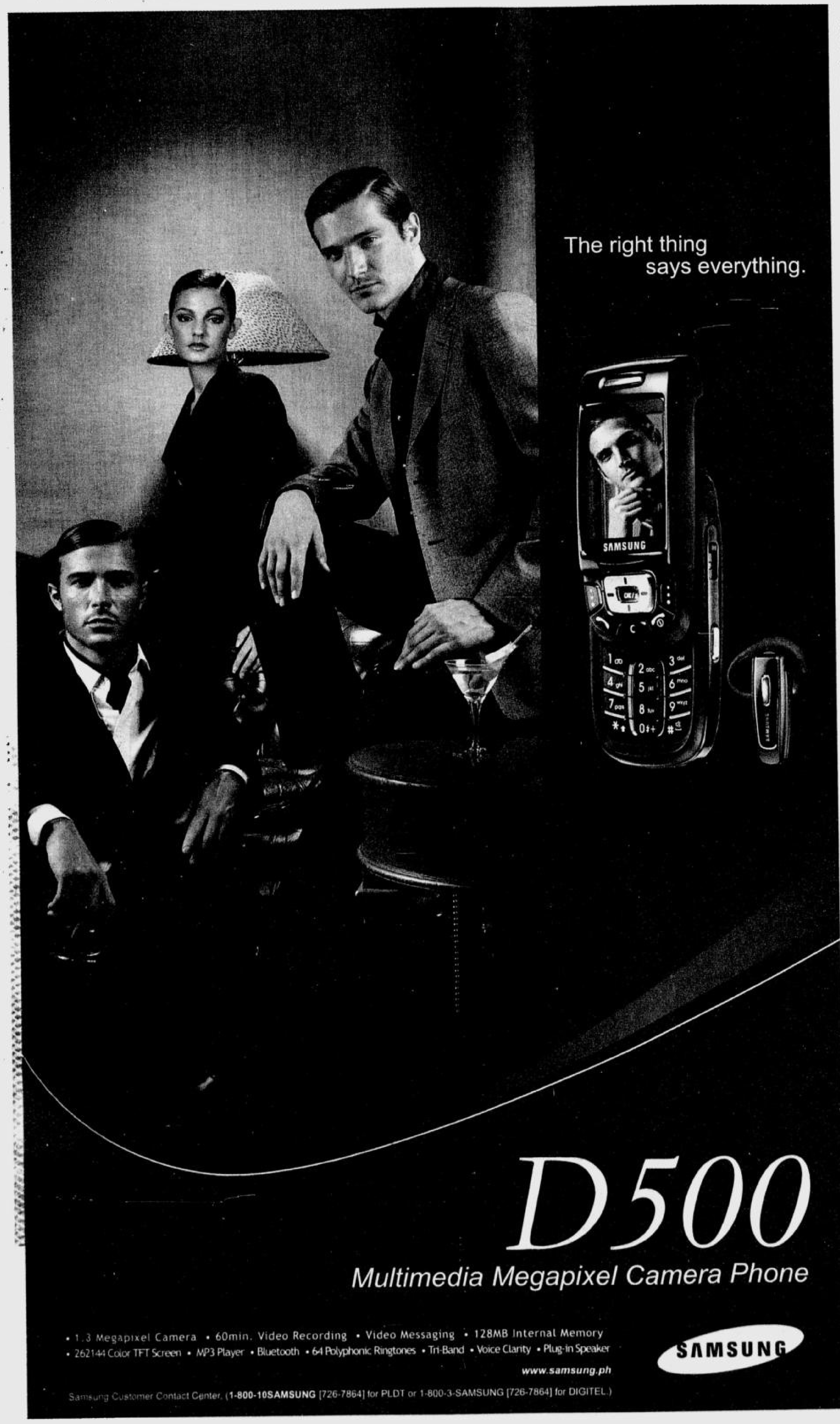
Snacks (yep, the atmosphere is that homey): There is a selection of sandwiches and pasta. I highly recommend the deviled eggs with bacon.

I asked Tinette why she didn't expand as her staff was very well trained and she obviously had the right clientele. She prefers it small so she can supervise better. She does this because she loves it, the money comes secondarily.

Every year in February, Tinette celebrates her and a sister's birthday month, helping bring joy to a charity of their choice. The night before I came they spent it at the Correctional Institute for Women in Mandaluyong. Tinette and her crew cut their hair while her sister took care of the party snacks and games under Mardi Gras Party Connoisseurs.

They had been doing the charity for four years. In 2002 it was Golden Acres home for the aged, in 2003 the women of Marillac Hills and in 2004 the children of Caritas Manila.

Visit them at Karrivin Plaza, A2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati (look for the Starbucks and enter through the side driveway). Call 8933091 to 94.



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NU Colour Eye Makeup Remover

Total eye makeup remover

NU Skin introduces Nu Colour's Eye Makeup Remover that is designed to remove eye makeup gently, yet thoroughly.

The product effectively dissolves all types of makeup, including waterproof mascara, which usually leaves a dark shadow under the eyes if not removed properly.

Nu Colour's Eye Makeup Remover is specially formulated with mild emollients and cleansers derived from natural rice oil. They fully remove eye makeup, while providing moisture to the delicate eye area. The product is non-greasy, hypoallergenic and pH balanced.

Nu Colour is a premium cosmetic line manufactured by Nu Skin Enterprises Inc., a global leader in multilevel marketing. It is marketed locally via person-to-person distribution by Nu Skin Enterprises Inc.'s local affiliate, Nu Skin Philippines— Inc.

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MARRAKECH. Luxurious clothing rich in detailed embellishments and fashion trimmings for the unabashedly free-spirited soul

'70S DAYDREAM—hippie yet stylish chic inspired by Woodstock's casual, free and dreamy days

COUNTRY GIRL. Summer-inspired clothes in soft color palette reminiscent of lush fields and warm afternoons

SWEET CHARITY. Country style meets urban glam for an Old World charm that is sweet and feminine.

All things feminine

DOROTHY Perkins' six-set Spring/Summer collection offers clothes that highlight feminine fashion—frilly designs, luxurious embellishments and creative mix-and-match options.

The '70s Daydream is inspired by Woodstock's casual, free and dreamy days, Sweet Charity relives an antique, Old-World charm through country style-meets-urban chic clothing, the Tribal collection offers African influences in the texture and design of clothes, Country Girl makes use of refreshing shades of green and yellow, reminiscent of lush fields and warm afternoons, Marrakech has rich colors and detailed embellishments and, finally, St. Tropez evokes carefree cruising in the Riviera with its nautical shades and shrunken linen ensembles.

Dorothy Perkins is one of the biggest women's fashion houses in the UK, with over 570 stores in Great Britain and 45 outlets in countries around the world. It offers blouses, knitwear, jackets, coats, denims, pants and trousers, suits, skirts, dresses, chic accessories and innerwear line, plus a wide range of sizes (European size 8 to 18), affording plus-sized women choices that fit.

Dorothy Perkins is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by Robinsons Specialty Stores Inc. (RSSI) in partnership with the Arcadia Group of the United Kingdom. Dorothy Perkins is located at the 2/L of Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas.

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Promo Mechanics

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2. Scoop-a-trip chip indicating the prize won will be found in the winning tubs.
3. Major prizes include the following:

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4. Minor prizes are the following:
   - 60 NOKIA 7260 cellphones
   - 80 CANON PS A400 digital cameras
   - 50 SAMSONITE luggage bags
   - 25 02XDA II cellphones
5. To claim the prize, call Nestlé Philippines, Inc. - Ice Cream Division (ICD) at (02) 721-8714 and look for Malou Improgo or visit the Nestlé Ice Cream Division office at 710 Aurora Blvd, Quezon City, Metro Manila, Phils., and surrender the winning chip.
6. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., JWT (formerly J Walter Thompson), suppliers and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of affinity or consanguinity are not eligible to join the promotion.

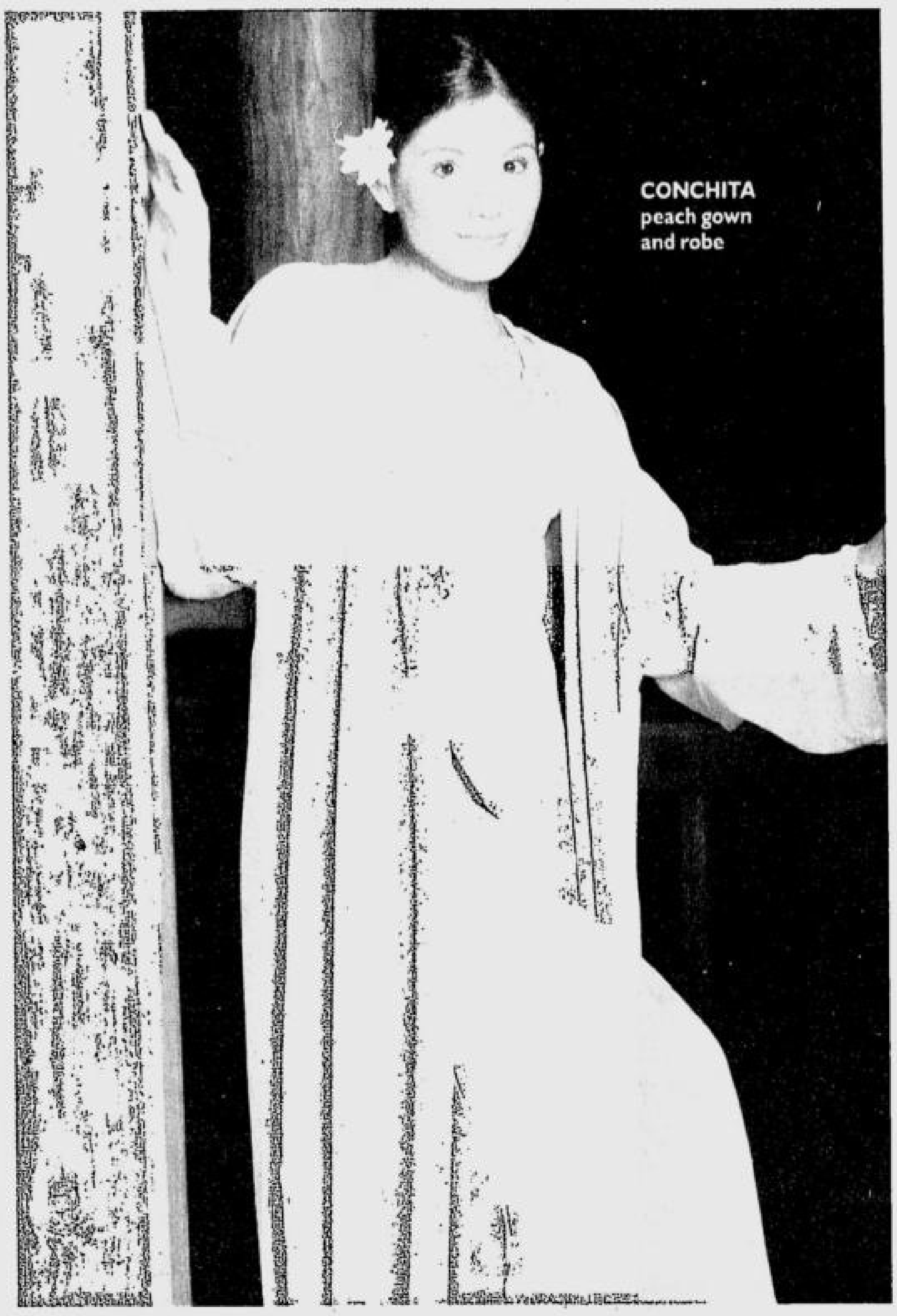
*For Chocolate, Double Dutch, Rocky Road, Cookies & Cream Flavors

Promo period: March 1 - May 31, 2005.

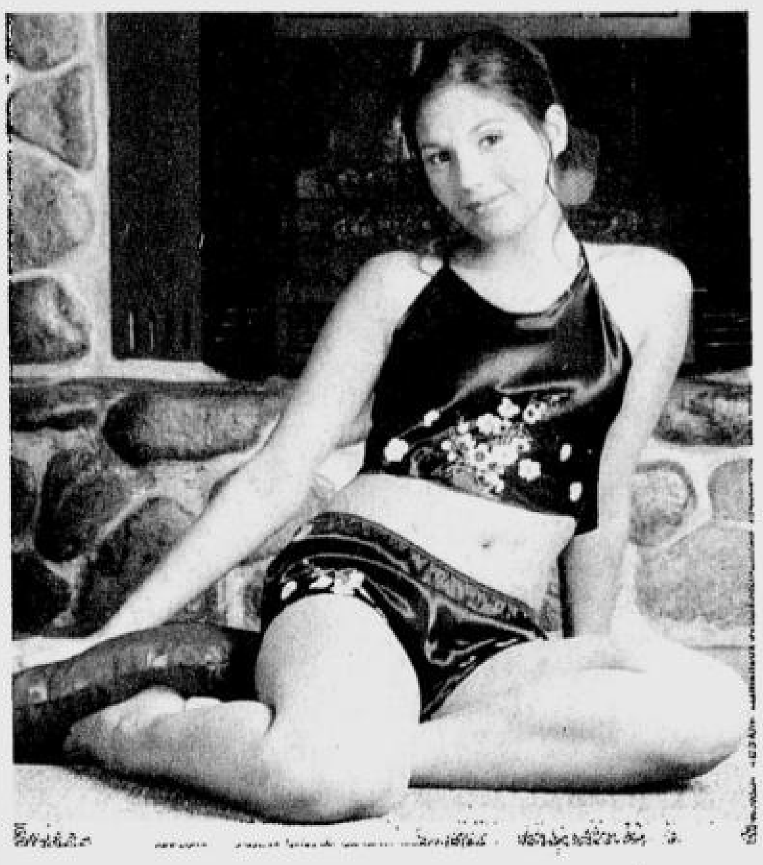
See Poster for details. Per DOH-BFAD Permit no. 0131. Series of 2005.

Maripaz gets local acceptability after first gaining international respect

SANDRA red gown and robe



CONCHITA peach gown and robe



CAMILLE cami short set

NANETTE black gown and robe

GRACE satin longsleeve pajama set

MARIA chemise and wrap

Dreamy lingerie gets fashion shock

By Cheche V. Moral

WHEN a local department store invited them to display pieces from their lingerie line, brothers Glenn and Allen San Luis obliged but not without some trepidation.

The Maripaz brand, distinct for embroidered nightwear, was being well received overseas, but the brothers were doubtful if it would click here.

"Our look was really for the export market, so there was a lot of ornamentation," Allen explains. The Maripaz style was selling well in the United States, United Kingdom and the Middle East. "We weren't sure if it would appeal here so we were reluctant. But we showed several pieces in Rustan's anyway. We thought of just disposing of the stocks and that would've been the end of it."

The San Luises were then manufacturing nightwear for another label sold at Rustan's. Just as predicted by Rustan's, and much to the brothers' surprise, the Maripaz stocks sold quickly.

GIA white gown and robe

CAMILLE gown and robe

A year and a half ago, they began selling their lingerie in three Rustan's branches (Tower, Alabang Town Center and Harrison Plaza).

If the brothers' venture into local retail was a fluke, so was their entry into the lingerie enterprise.

In the mid-'90s, Glenn was studying for his MBA in the US when he was asked to come home. Their mother, a table-linens exporter, was sick. It was her wish that he and Allen learn the ropes of the business. The brothers were both set on corporate careers, and had no particular interest in the manufacturing trade. Allen himself was working with a computer company.

When the San Luis matriarch passed away in 1995, however, the brothers felt they owed it to her and the workers to keep the business going. Their company, Bergerac Enterprises Inc., was supplying embroidered table linens to department stores in Germany, France, Japan, the UK.

CINDY lavender chemise and wrap

Doing their best

One of their buyers, the Spanish department store El Corte Ingles, asked if they could also make embroidered sleepwear. Soon enough they were delivering to different countries so that in 1998, they decided to just concentrate on nightwear. Two years hence, and emboldened by the international market's response to their craft sold by buyers under different names, Glenn and Allen launched their own brand. Maripaz, their mother's namesake, was born in 2000.

"We do what we do best, which is embroidery," Glenn says of Maripaz. The brothers insist on sticking to their distinct style, with intricate stitches and beadwork, to distinguish their brand from others. "We're embroiderers, first and foremost," Allen adds. "If we go into prints, *pare-pareho na.*" Their materials range from cotton, chiffon, georgette, satin and velour (for winter robes).

Overseas, the Maripaz brand is sold through catalogs and select retail shops across the US.

"We're in high-end boutiques in the US, but we're moderately priced," stresses Glenn. At Rustan's their pieces are sold at wholesale prices, from P1,300 to P1,900, making Maripaz significantly more affordable locally. At the moment, only a tenth of Maripaz's output is being sold here.

"We fill the gap in the market that we felt was underserved," explains Allen. "We're not cheap, but we're also not expensive. It's glamour at a good price." Though their nightwear generally come in sets, the pieces can be bought separately.

Theirs are traditional nightwear, according to Glenn. Their collections include pajama sets, nightgowns and robes, chemises and wraps, camisole sets, caftans.

At Rustan's, young brides have taken to the look of Maripaz. It's also doing well among women well into their 50s, according to the brothers. Sizes come in "roomy" small to extra-large, with the larger sizes significantly selling better here. Quite understandably, the cottons are doing better here, and so are the neutral colors.

As soon as they began retailing in Rustan's, Glenn and Allen have found it inevitable for Maripaz to be compared with another internationally known Philippine brand. Natori, New York-based Filipino designer Josie Natori's eponymous lingerie line, is also sold at Rustan's.

"We're still very small compared to Josie Natori," clarifies Glenn. In fact, he adds, Maripaz and Natori's offices are housed in the same building in New York. "She's very nice to us. She knows our story and she's been so helpful. She's been sending her people down to our floor to check us out."

While Natori caters to a higher-end market, the brothers say their own brand is for the mid-point segment, with some high-end pieces. "She has lots of fabrications... We want to focus on embroidery," notes Glenn.

The brothers say they are, in fact, quite grateful for what Natori has done to transform the image of the Philippines in the world market. Says Allen, "Now if you say it's made in the Philippines, wow! It must be really good."

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

ROBBY Mananquil

JR Wacker

CHASE Tinio

BIANCA Araneta

An afternoon of polo and fashion

THE FILA Summer Cup 2005 will be held March 13 at The Manila Polo Club.

The afternoon will not only feature expert polo playing but will also showcase Fila's Spring/Summer Collection. Fila president Butch Albert will preside.

Featured performer during the cocktail event is The Dawn.

The fashion presentation will be led by Fila endorsers Bianca Araneta, Robby Mananquil, Chase Tinio, JR Wacker and Pepon Marave. It will be hosted by JR Isaac.

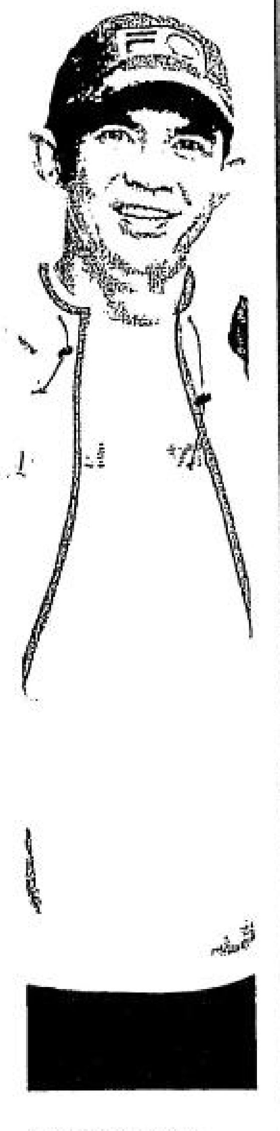
Canapés will be prepared by Prince of Jaipur and drinks will be provided V Bar.

The theme of the Fila collection, which is also the theme of the brand's newest campaign, is This Is My Life, an expression of individuality, spirit and character.

The show will start with models on Ducati bikes. A wide variety of sporty apparel and accessories for running, tennis, motoring, basketball, badminton, aerobics, yoga and fitness will be presented. But the pieces will also be suitable for chic casual days.

The Fila Flow and Fila Warp lines feature the best in new design and footwear technology.

Fila Cup is held in cooperation with Ducati, V Bar, Prince of Jaipur, Aqua Salon, and the Manila Polo Club.



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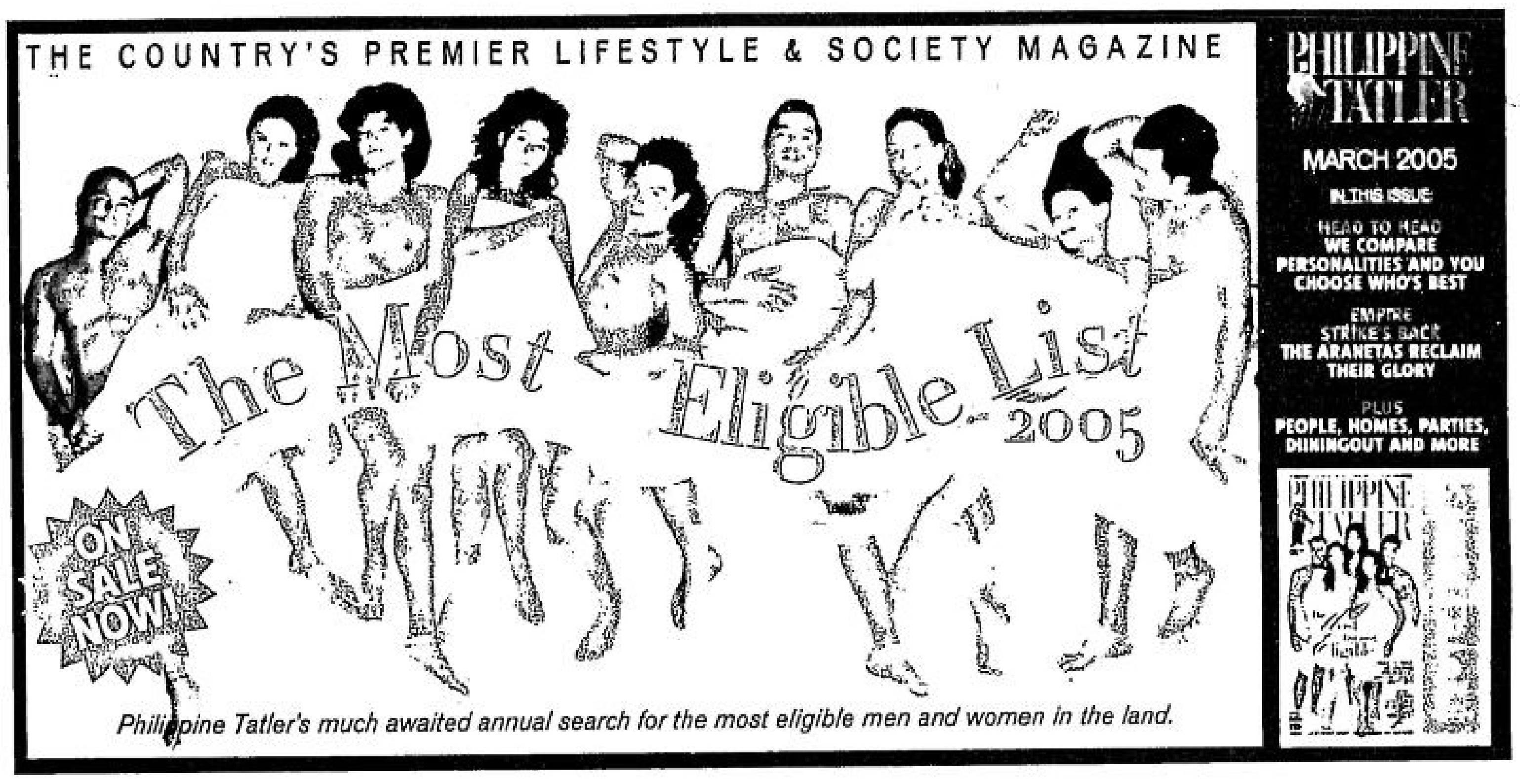

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MARCH 2005
IN THIS ISSUE
HEAD TO HEAD
WE COMPARE PERSONALITIES AND YOU CHOOSE WHO'S BEST
EMPIRE STRIKES BACK
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Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2/F Marvin Plaza Building 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City Tel: (632) 812-6047 loc. 259 Fax: (632) 810-9797

Seminar on autism at Cupertino

CUPERTINO Center for Special Children marks its 40th year with a seminar tomorrow, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Mangyan Road, La Vista Subdivision, Loyola Heights, QC. Dr. Vilma Salcedo will talk on the role of the developmental pediatrician in screening special children; Dr. Edilberto Dizon will discuss the assessment of a special child's condition and Dr. Ma. Therese Macapagal will share her experiences on the coping mechanisms as a parent of a special child. The seminar is free to the public. Call 9284115.

GOINGS ON

SALE. The 12th National Furniture, Furnishing & Fashion Festival and the 1st Philippine Folk Arts & Crafts Festival will be held today until April 3. Call 8268162/ 8203862.

CONCERT. Paco Park Presents features pianist Jane Marie Oponda and Musika Ibarang Chorus of the Philippine High School for the Arts tonight at 6. Admission is free.

HOMECOMING. The UST Graduate School will hold an alumni homecoming and recognition tomorrow at Thomas Aquinas Research Complex. Call Irene Evangelista at 7315396 or Dr. Nandy Pedrosa, 0918-3313641.

LECTURE. The Museum Foundation of the Philippines Inc. will hold a lecture on the history of the National Museum's anthropology collection tomorrow, 10 a.m.-12 noon, at Tambunting-Villonco Hall, 4/F National Museum of the Filipino People, Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Manila. The Museum's chief anthropologist, Timie Barbosa will be the lecturer. The informal discussions will be complemented by a show and tell of museum artifacts and their provenance. Call 4042685.

CONTEST. Teens are invited to join the Pentel Mural Painting Contest tomorrow at the 2nd level, activity hub, Starmall Las Piñas. Call 8725249.

CONCERT. Concert at the Park features Ecole de Ballet Manille's intermediate to pre-professional female students, aged 11-20, on March 13, 6 p.m. Admission is free. Venue is at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila.

MUSICAL. The Philippine Women's University School of Music and Embassy of Switzerland will present Trio La Tache on March 14, 7 p.m., at PWU Conrado Benitez Hall, Taft Avenue, Manila. The trio is composed of Curdin Coray (cello), Urs Brugger (clarinet) and Hansjorg Koch (piano).

EXHIBIT. A selling exhibit is ongoing until March 15 at AVSurfer All Mall and March 20 at AVSurfer Metro East. All consumer electronics and home appliances are up for grabs through zero-interest deals, special discounts and freebies. Call 8431541 to 48.

SEARCH. Teens will vie in the elimination round of Sta. Lucia East's Search for Little Stars 2005 on March 16 and 30. Male and female model wannabes try out in the screening day of Generation East 2005 Model Search tomorrow. Call 6815401.

VJ HUNT. The MTV VJ Hunt finals night will be held March 17 at Le Pavillon, Roxas Boulevard. The event will be hosted by KC Montero, Sarah Meier, Marc Abaya and Cindy Kurleto.

JOB FAIR. The Call Center Philippines 2005 Job Fair will be held March 19-20, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at Expo Trade Hall of Festival Supermall Alabang. Applicants are requested to bring their resumes. Call 8253482/ 8250804.

TOURNAMENT. The 8th President's Cup Golf Tournament unfolds on March 19 at Tagaytay Midlands Golf Course. Each tournament participant will be treated to a buffet lunch, car raffle ticket and complimentary ticket to the Freestyle concert slated on the same day at 9 p.m. Call 4132033.

RETREAT. The Community of Fasters for Justice and Peace will hold a Lenten retreat on March 23-26 at Eliazo Hall, Ateneo de Manila University campus. Sr. Mary Fidelis Estrada is the retreat master while Fr. Raymond Bodson will officiate the religious rites. Call Angge Soriano at 3742170; Beng Dionela, 8615865; Cecille Mercado, 9258745.

SUMMER COURSE. Corban Daycare and Learning Center will hold Remedial Reading and Math for preschool up to Grade 4 on March 28-June 3, 10-11 a.m. Corban is located at the ground floor, MB Aguirre Bldg., President's Ave. cor. Elizalde St., Sucat, Parañaque. Call 8426665/ 8093050/ 0917-6297718.

REVIEW CLASSES. Mentorsplus Katipunan offers a review program this summer. First session will be on March 29-April 15; session 2, April 19-May 6; and session 3, May 9-26. Mentorsplus Katipunan is at Unit 11l Alvero St., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 9319767/ 0920-9276627/ 0917-8420128.

SALE. Get big discounts on selected brands in the annual Denim and T-shirt Festival at the Sta. Lucia East Department Store until March 31. Catch the season's hottest denim and T-shirt collection in a fashion exhibit. Shop and get a free load (Smart) for every P1,000 purchase of denim and T-shirt brands. You can also win a vacation package in a raffle promo to be drawn on May 6. Call 6815181.

REUNION. The Japan Foundation Manila will hold the 4th reunion of the Japan Foundation Fellows Alumni Association on March 31 at Makati Shangri-La's Pasay A Room. Call 8116155 to 58.

REUNION. A grand reunion of Irene Generoso's clan will be held April 3, 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at Orosa Hall, UP Balara, QC. Call Mely Gloria at 2540025; Lito Matias, 9381420; Baby Villanueva, 9418390; and Mila Medina, 6558129.

REUNION. Calling all Allied Thread Company employees of Brgy. Maybunga, Pasig City from 1954 to 1998. There will be a grand reunion on April 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Ciudad Grande Clubhouse, Ortigas Avenue, Brgy. Rosario, Pasig. Call Romy Medina at 6558129; Pete Petalio, 6437300; Matt Ramos, 6403563.

PUPPY MARKET. "Puppy Luv" will be held April 16-17 at Eastwood City. The event will showcase 300 puppy breeds. A photo exhibit of well-known personalities and their pets, fashion show of puppy-inspired accessories and sale of pet merchandise will be held.

CONFAB. An international conference on Enriching Indigenous Southeast Asian Collections in Libraries will be held April 20-21 at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati. Call 9279858/ 9264708.

WORKSHOPS. The Tagaytay Film, Broadcast and Creative Workshops is now accepting registrants for its summer offerings. The workshops will run on April 25-29 and May 9-13 at Development Academy of the Philippines Conference Center and Hotel in Tagaytay. Call 9261883/ 9251916/ 4133840.

BOOKFAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions will hold the 9th Philippine Academic Bookfair on July 11-15 at PTA Tent-Clamshell 2, Gen. Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9254572/ 9279858.

ROADSHOW. The Parenting Company recently concluded its Parenting Roadshow. It toured a total of seven schools in Metro Manila. For more information on lectures and seminars, call 9200537/ 4330387.

Hit the Colors

FOR A WIN IN DADS, KAMAYAN AND SAISAKI

It's time again for togas, toasts, and triumphs! All ye graduates, stand tall with miters on your head, and walk proud with your diplomas in your hands. You are now the masters of your fates and the inheritors of tomorrow. But before you get going on your promising futures, you've got to take the time to party! Commemorate your achievements with a feast no one can forget. Celebrate a great graduation tradition at Dads, Kamayan and Saisaki. A grand Mediterranean Festival is Dad's buffet offering, a celebration of the elegant, delicious and healthy cuisine of the region. This three-in-one feast also features Kamayan's Spices of the Philippines and Saisaki's Kani Festival. This March we are rolling out the red carpet for a most memorable graduation celebration in DADS, KAMAYAN, SAISAKI, SAKE SAN and SAIKONO. Bring your family and friends for a banquet of good food and fun activities. All guests get the chance to play the "Hit The Colors" game, join the raffle promo, and win cool prizes. All graduates get a free for-grads-only drink and a stuffed toy. **For reservations and inquiries, call 531-6101 or 531-7292.**

CHEERS TO SUMMER FROM SAISAKI

Geisha

Intriguing, graceful, and elegant, the Geisha are traditional Japanese entertainers, skilled in a wide range of art forms, wise in the complex traditions of serving clients, and in various games and the art of conversation. The delicate rituals mastered by the Geisha have been refined over centuries. In tribute to these genteel ladies and their captivating talents, Saisaki blends the subtle flavors of Japanese wine with the refreshing spirits of blue curacao, triple sec and margarita mix. This sophisticated concoction evokes the Geisha's deep feminine strength, and Japan's richly textured culture.

Yakuza

Mysterious, powerful, and sly, the Yakuza is the lord of the Japanese underworld. They came from the Samurai without a Shogun, or warriors without masters. In the initiation ceremony of the Yakuza, they exchange *sake* cups to symbolize the entrance into their secretive world. The amounts of *sake* poured into each cup depended upon one's status, whether the participants were father-son, brother-brother, elder-younger, etc. The ceremony was usually performed in front of a Shinto altar, giving it religious significance. At Saisaki, even the Yakuza would be honored to drink this beverage that bears their name. A potent merging of Japanese wine and blue curacao, with the robust tang of lemon, pineapple, and melon juices, this drink is meant to make one feel the exciting danger of entering the Yakuza's inner circle.

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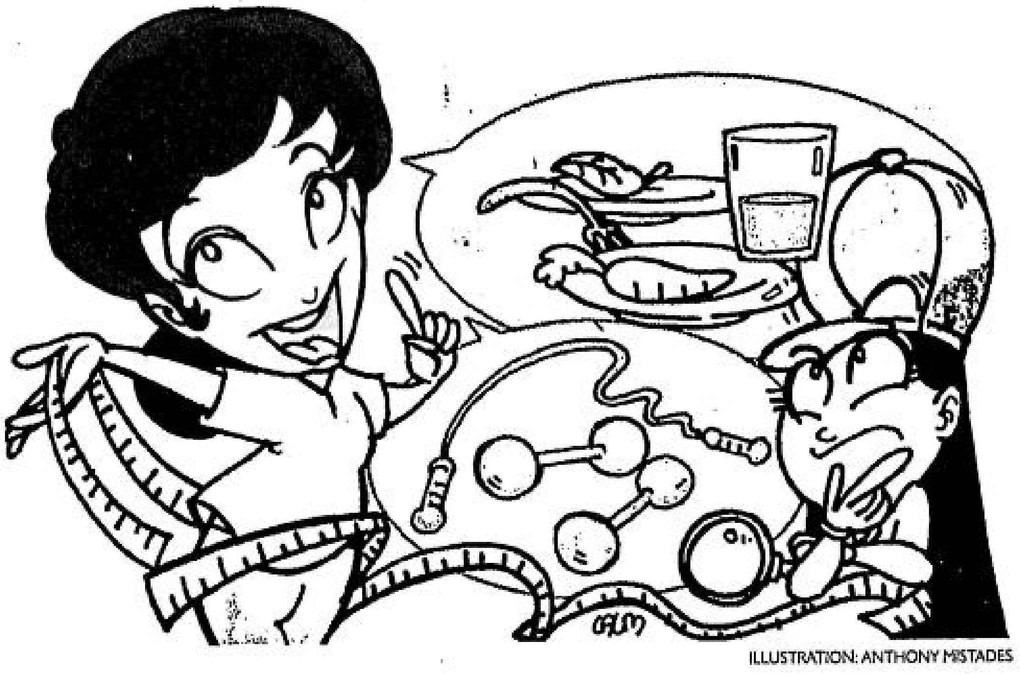

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

Why women deny they've had 'lipo'

Fake-body sleuthing is an interesting pastime

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHILE society columnists people-watch, I must confess, I watch lipo'd people. Let's just say I decided to specialize, to segmentize the people-watched market, to go niche. I love to guess if he or she (mostly she) has undergone liposuction or body sculpture—and I have a good batting average. It's an interesting skill.

I wouldn't have gotten as much kick from ferreting out the lipo'd bodies if only women didn't hide the fact that they've had liposuction or had something done to their bodies or faces. In fact, many do. That's what's interesting and puzzling about the cosmetic surgery phenomenon these days. Why do people, especially women, still feel the need to hide it? While one shouldn't exactly flaunt it, one doesn't have to lie either.

You'd think that given **Vicki Belo**'s marketing barrage and how this driven woman has almost single-handedly put cosmetic surgery, particularly liposuction and, to a certain extent, breast augmentation, into the mainstream of beauty prerequisites, you'd think people would be more forthcoming about it, and not feel that it's something they should be ashamed of. Not.

One of the more curious things about our culture and social ways is how we use weight commentary as some sort of greeting. Ever noticed how you say Hi! then in the next breath, say, "You've lost weight!" Then the other party would demur, "No, I gained in fact. It's just I'm in black." This goes on and on, with the greetings meandering into diets and carbs and proteins. And that is just a way of saying hello.

Indeed foreigners must find it odd, if not hokey, how we so naturally comment about each other's weight and looks as a way of greeting or breaking the ice. To us Filipinos, small talk is anatomy talk. It's inevitably a dissection or analysis of one's *bilbil*. That's social greeting or niceties, to us.

And in our culture, we go about prying into each other's body imperfections as if it were our business, which is why one could get asked if one has had lipo or not. Abetting this is the compulsion of some celebrities to announce their lipo or other cosmetic procedures—as their end of the ex-deal: free surgery for promotion.

I try to check this urge myself—of commenting on the "greetee's" *bilbil* and all, the

WHY/E3

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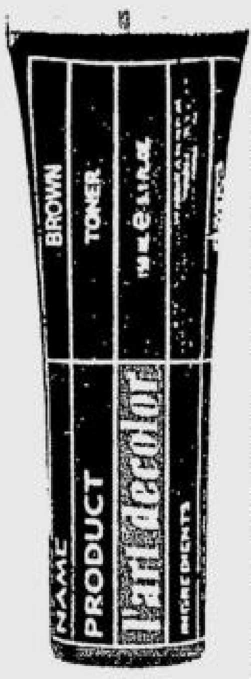
26 ways to great hair



DAVINES L'Art De Color toner in brown

THREE of today's top style experts—Basement Salon's Stefan Wilczynski, Salon de Ken's Kenti Tam, and Salon de Manila's Pin Antonio—share quick and easy solutions to 26 of the most frequently asked hair questions.

The three artists have teamed up with Italian hair care, styling and color system brand Davines, which is sold in over 55 countries including France, Spain, and the United Kingdom.

SHORT hair is advisable to cut drying and styling time.

Hair breakage

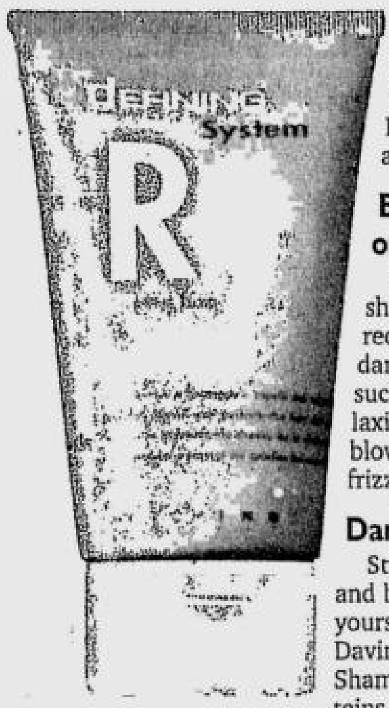
Depending on hair texture and length, select a vitamin-enriched hair system that strengthens highly stressed hair. Davines has Natural Tech Vitamin Activist Shampoo, Gel, and Lotion that revitalize scalp and hair shafts.

Split ends

Don't let two months pass without getting a shear. If you're too busy to visit your stylist frequently, try Davines Natural Tech Vegetarian Miracle infused with rice proteins, avocado and seaweed extract, which can be done in salon and at home. Follow up with Living Enzyme Infusion at your salon, an intense restructuring treatment containing castor oil and extract of the silkworm cocoon.

Hair moisture

Arugola, combined with jojoba oil, walnut extract, sweet almond and rice proteins, gives hair a moisture boost. The Essential Haircare Momo triumvirate of Davines (shampoo, conditioner, and cream) is a fab choice.



DEFINING System Relaxing Fluid

Blow-dried, ironed or curled hair

Straightening or curling irons should not be used regularly. The direct interaction with heat is very damaging. Leave-in conditioners such as Davines Defining System Relaxing Fluid protect hair prior to blow-drying and straighten frizzy/curly hair.

Dandruff

Stress combined with pollutants and bacteria generate dandruff. Rid yourself of this problem with Davines Natural Tech Anti-Dandruff Shampoo and Gel with wheat proteins, sage, pine and fruity AHA ingredients.

Static-free hair

If hair will be colored, ask your stylist for coloring products that contain vegetable extract of kale, which has an anti-static effect, such as Davines Mask Light. At home, opt for Davines Defining System Creative Moulding Foam which has cationic agents that fight electrostatic charge.

additive
System
A
protection provider

DAVINES Protection Provider

Oily hair

Treat this nasty problem with Davines Natural Tech Rebalancing Sebum Control Shampoo and Lotion that control buildup.

Frizzy or kinky hair strands

Davines Defining System Protein Sculpting Lotion addresses the problem of kinky hair. It also protects hair from environmental aggression.

Sun- or pollution-damaged hair

Look for items that have UV filters or sun protectors such as Davines Natural Tech De-Stress Be-Phase Shelter.

Fresh-smelling hair

Davines Natural Tech De-Stress Muesli & Yogurt Shampoo, Conditioner, Buffer Gel, and Be-Phase Shelter are gentle finds that cleanse, detoxify and refresh hair without the help of chemical substances.

Natural hair products

Coconut oil, vegetable extracts, milk proteins or yogurt are nature-based products that should be embraced. Not only are they safer and less harsh, they are also healthier.

MASK Light Activator

Hairstyles for various faces

A full crown that's slightly upturned with blended layers look gorgeous for those with round face shapes. Graduated sides conceal elongated face shapes. Wispy bangs make the look sexier. For those who are square-faced, a short bob with pointed bangs soften the angular aspects of the face.

Quick styling solutions

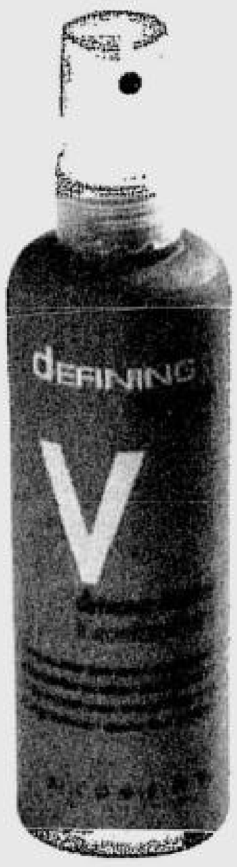
Short hair is advisable to cut drying and styling time. Run Davines Defining System Carving Paste onto hair for a flexible yet defined textured finish.

Long-lasting curls

Manage curls with Davines Defining System Protein Sculpting Lotion, then seal the deal with Glam Power Spray for lasting hold without the heavy residue.

Flexible hairstyles

Direct airflow from behind the crown and run fingers to ruffle top and sides. This technique is perfect for a natural "day" look. To glam up, spritz volumizer such as Davines Defining System Texturizer for a much-needed lift. This texturizer is likewise perfect for limp hair. Apply Davines Defining System Creative Moulding Foam mousse at the tips for added boost.



DEFINING Texturizer

MASK Light Color Conditioning

System
defining gloss

DEFINING Gloss

Styling alternatives

Never tie wet hair! Dry hair, then polish with Davines Defining Gloss for a natural healthy-looking finish. Up-styles are perfectly held by the Davines Bio_O Paste.

Achieving movement

Flip hair, then add shape and define by using Davines Defining System Wonder Wax from bottom up. Finish the look with a shine spray such as Defining Gloss for a nice glow.

Taming baby hairs

Apply Davines Bio_O Honey Gel to tame these protrusions.

Shine and radiance

Beam with the laminating effect of Davines Defining System Shine Pomade.

Stubborn flyaway hair

Tame stubborn flyaway with Davines Relaxing Fluid.

Best colors

Color must enhance skin tone. For *mestizas*, warm shades or lowlights such as ash are a good contrast. For *chinitas*, well-blended colors enliven the features. Tones from brown to red are pretty, such as mahogany. For *morenas*, varying choco levels are best. Color hair at most every two months.

Hot hues

Red, brown and black are basics that could go well together depending on color technique.

Color fading/hair drying

The Davines Essential Haircare Nounou trio of shampoo, conditioner, and pack is best for colored hair to preserve tint. And when in the salon, ask your stylist to apply Davines Natural Tech Royal Jelly Plus to re-mineralize displaced moisture.

Allergic reactions

A skin or patch test is a must to determine if one is allergic to any coloring ingredient. Also, avoid scratching scalp before treatment because this removes natural oil which protects hair from coloring agents. Ask your stylist to apply Davines Protection Provider.

Taking care of color-treated hair

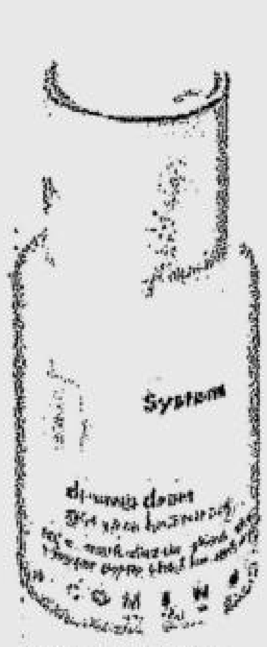
It's a really bad idea to plunge into the beach or swimming pool if hair is colored. Chlorine harms hair and flushes pigments from the hair shaft. Salt water and sun rays bring considerable damage as well. For colored hair, cold water is best as it closes hair shafts.

Specific ingredients

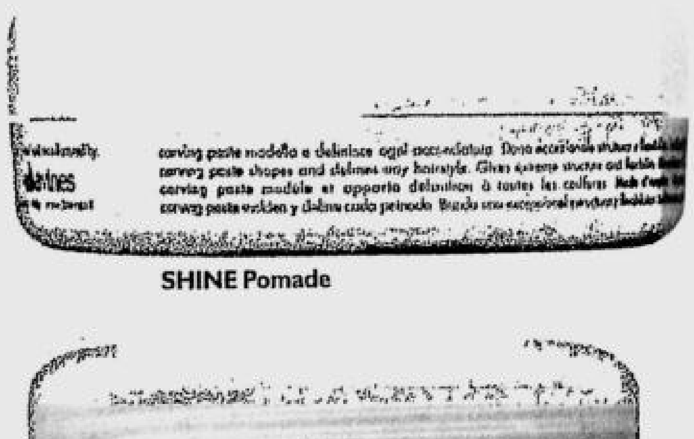
Milk proteins and other ingredients provide a compact cuticle to give hair shine and a silky smooth feel. Davines Mask renders not only color, but gentle and nourishing care as well. The effect is similar to getting permanent color with a cellophane and treatment at the same time. Milk proteins of the Mask Color Conditioning System also make color less likely to fade when exposed under the sun. Use only low-level activators such as Davines Mask Light if you have a sensitive scalp.

Davines is exclusively distributed in the Philippines by CRAI Inc. and is available in leading salons.

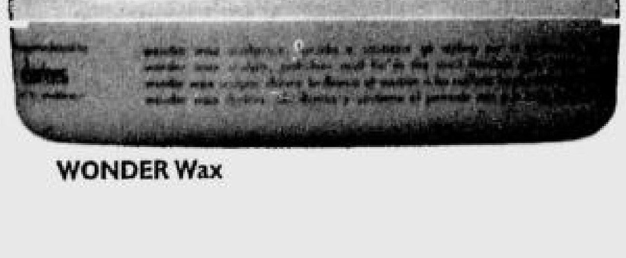
HAIR color must enhance skin tone.



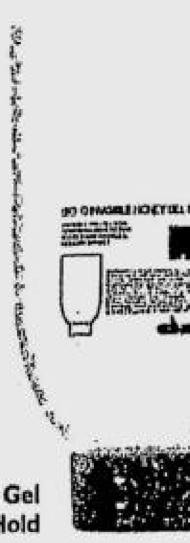
DEFINING Drops



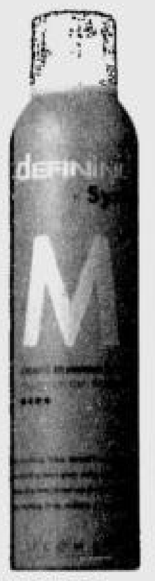
SHINE Pomade



WONDER Wax



INVISIBLE Honey Gel Strong Hold



MOULDING Foam

BEFORE

AFTER

Hair rebonding made easy—and cheap

THERADERM has pioneered a world-class hair rebonding system called Ahglow Hairstrait to meet market needs.

Ahglow is becoming the favorite of salon owners and stylists because it is affordable and effective. The traditional hair straightening and rebonding system uses lye, which makes the hair brittle and is also dangerous.

The Ahglow system has all the right products for the rebonding procedure.

The scented Hairstrait Straightening Cream softens and relaxes the hair. It is mild and gentle on the hair. Hairstrait Neutralizer Cream re-links and rebonds broken hair and stabilizes and maintains the straightened hair.

Hair is conditioned with the Keraten Hair Protek that repairs damaged hair and protects the hair during the ironing process. The Keratin Reconstructor Conditioner provides intensive conditioning treatment after straightening and neutralizing.

John Lansang, president of Theraderm, said they hoped that with Ahglow the price of hair rebonding would fall without compromising safety and quality.

Theraderm products are also exported to other countries in Asia, North America and Africa.

Ahglow has been exhibited in Texas, United States; Thailand and Saudi Arabia. Exclusive distributorship agreements have been forged with dealers in Africa and Latin America.

Ahglow is available at all Hortaleza outlets and major distributors nationwide. Call 6319764.

Why women deny they've had 'lipo'

From page E1

second I say hi. It takes some effort, I must confess. So now, my tendency is, after the *beso-beso*, I find my eyes wandering to the person's *bilbil*, thighs, arms. You can't help but notice—from size 12 or 14, one went down to size 6 or 4! And that's diet?

I don't think so. How can one spot the lipo'd body? I asked Dr. Belo herself, and she said, "No fat at all." Indeed when a body goes from fat, plump or obese, to bone-tight, that could only be liposuction or body sculpture. And that shows especially on the thighs and arms. The thighs come out almost as streamlined as a 16-year-old's. On a 40 plus-year-old's body? Not natural, not even if one lived in the gym. And not even on a 30 plus-year-old. Or a pot belly that suddenly goes flat as a board in a tuck-in. Not natural.

Liposuction has become a popular procedure. So many people have availed themselves of it, almost across social classes. (The non-affluent ones, I was told, resort to it because they need the svelte body for their entertainment jobs abroad.) In the lifestyle circle, I'd hazard a ratio: Say five out of 10 people we meet have had it, and only one—or less than one—is candid enough to admit it.

DR. Vicki Belo

Why the secrecy? That remains a puzzle. The cosmetic surgery/beauty industry must have grown by leaps and bounds in this country. It's hard to peg the amount, income tax statements being, shall we say, purely discretionary. Yet people are wont to deny their surgical experience. Why can't they admit it? That's on one hand. And on the other, really, it's none of our business.

In the meantime, however, the guessing game is turning into an interesting sport at parties.

Martha gains

Equally interesting is that shares of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia went up nearly threefold after she had been sentenced in July and last week after she was released and put on house arrest.

According to Asian Wall Street Journal, the curious thing is, Stewart, who owns more than 29 million shares, the rise amounted to about $600 million. However, the advertising in her magazines has yet to kick in. But still, what all this says is that Martha Stewart Living is so alive.

Perhaps this is because the brand meets the basics. It's still a good magazine.

Red-carpet tidbit

There was much ado that Oscar winner **Hilary Swank** wore a Guy Laroche instead of a Calvin Klein, which has paid her last year as the image model for underwear of the Calvin Klein Choice. Fashion-watchers called it a "snub." The best actress, however, merely said that her switch to the navy-blue Guy Laroche was all because she didn't want to feel chilly that night.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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be fashionable!
6pm at 2/L Carousel Court
Get the freshest in fashion as we parade the latest trends in Shopwise's Grand Fashion Show.

Visit our "Fashion Display" from March 5 to 18 and pick up ideas to enhance your fashion sense!

be smart!
Take advantage of exciting discounts from your favorite fashion, beauty and wellness establishments starting March 5 to 31!

be fit!
4pm at 2/L Carousel Court
Feel better by treating your body right. Learn about Chiropractic and Acupuncture on March 12. You can even go for a free consultation.

Give your body the attention it deserves. On March 13, join Sphere Gym's demonstration on pilates and Latin dance and work your way towards a healthier, toner you.

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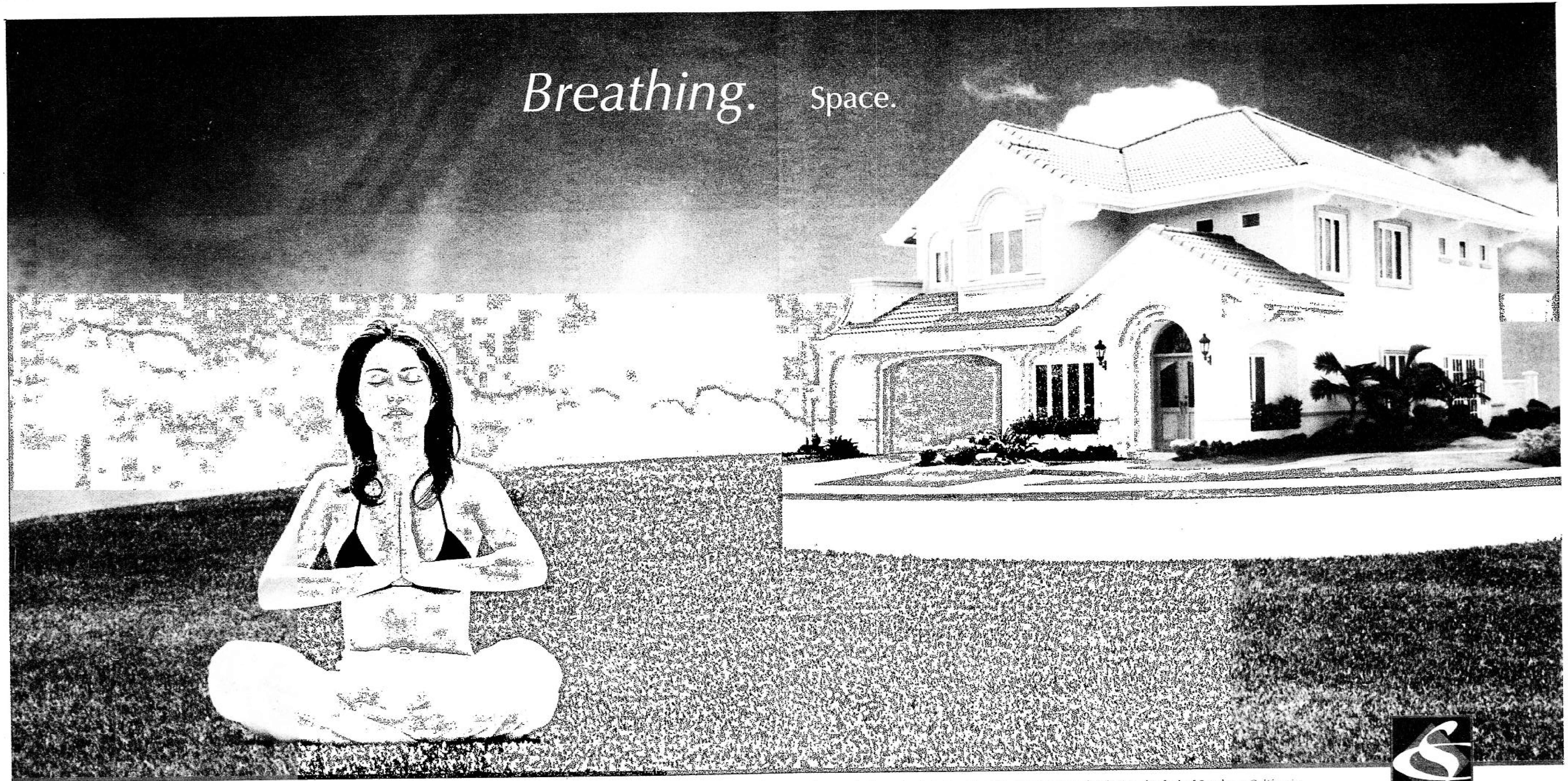
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Go for bold

Sandals and slip-ons need not be basic and boring. Go for bold, tongue-in-cheek footwear that show a whole lot of personality. Even Birkenstock-like styles can come in vivid hues that will look great with jeans and tees.

Sandals with yellow straps and striped instep, P1,490; fruity and floral thong sandals; P2,490, thong sandals with beach-print instep and abstract enamel accent, P2,490

Brighten up your wardrobe with vibrant summer hues

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE PIERCING heat of summer is upon us again. Those who are stuck in the city are probably dreaming of getaways in balmy beaches or cool mountainous areas. Unfortunately, not everyone has that option.

What's the next best thing? Well, besides a tall glass of thirst-quenching iced water or a refreshing shower, there's wearing summer colors that are bright, relaxed and undeniably fun.

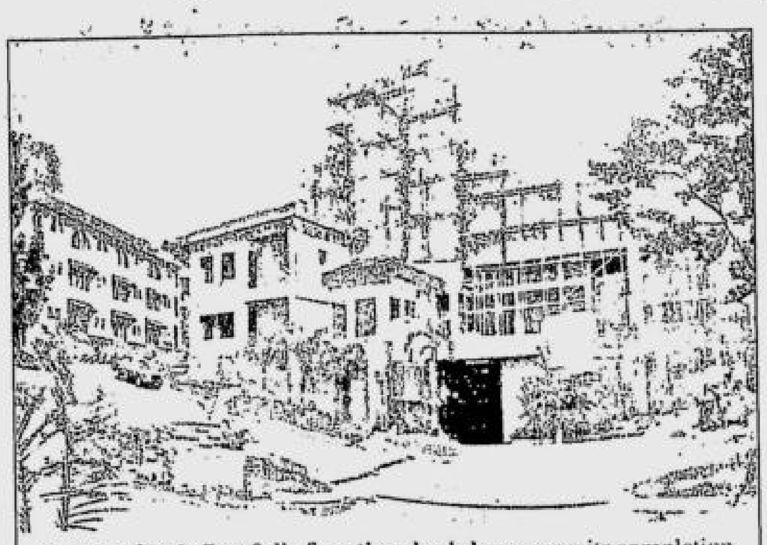
Dark colors absorb light so it's best to avoid them for summer. White or light colors, on the other hand, reflect light and look fresher.

No, you don't have to get rid of your dark-colored items. Just mix them up with more vivid colors like turquoise, coral, canary yellow or apple green to create your very own summer vibe.

Remember, you can use summer's most vibrant hues as accents. For instance, instead of wearing your basic black pencil skirt with a black polo shirt, why not match it with a hot pink top to show off your exotic *morena* skin tone? Or why not wear your skirt with a pool-blue knit to cool you off?

Eye-catching colorful accessories, bags and shoes can also help create a fresh, summer look. Mix and match them with light-colored basics such as a cotton voile white top and linen trousers or a khaki suit. You can even wear them with jeans and a

BRIGHTEN/ F3



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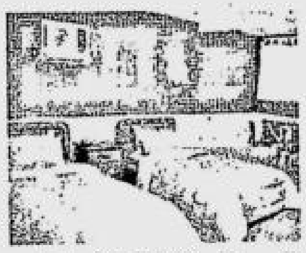

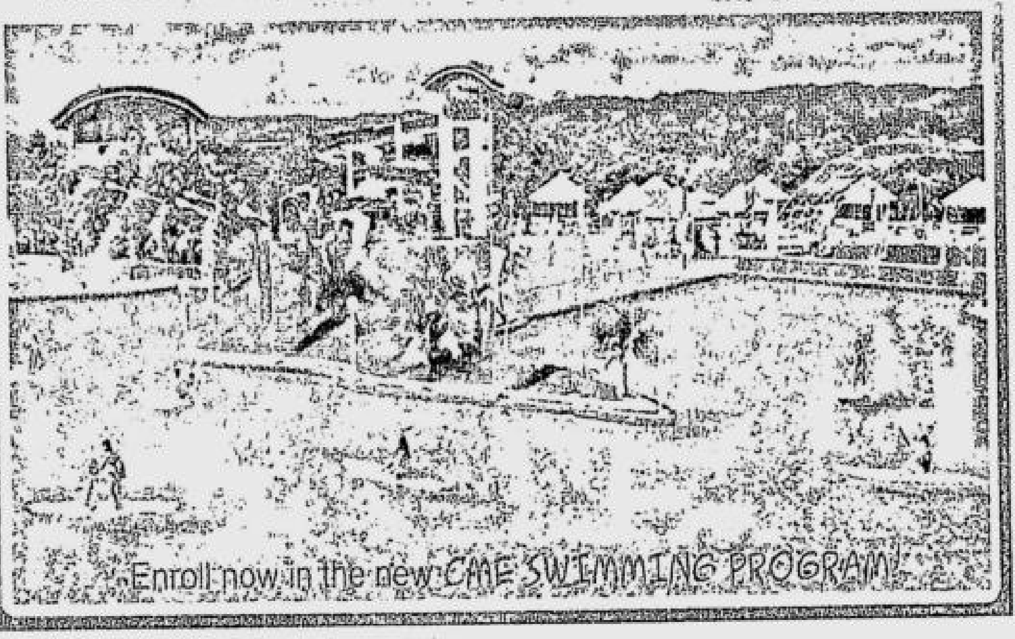

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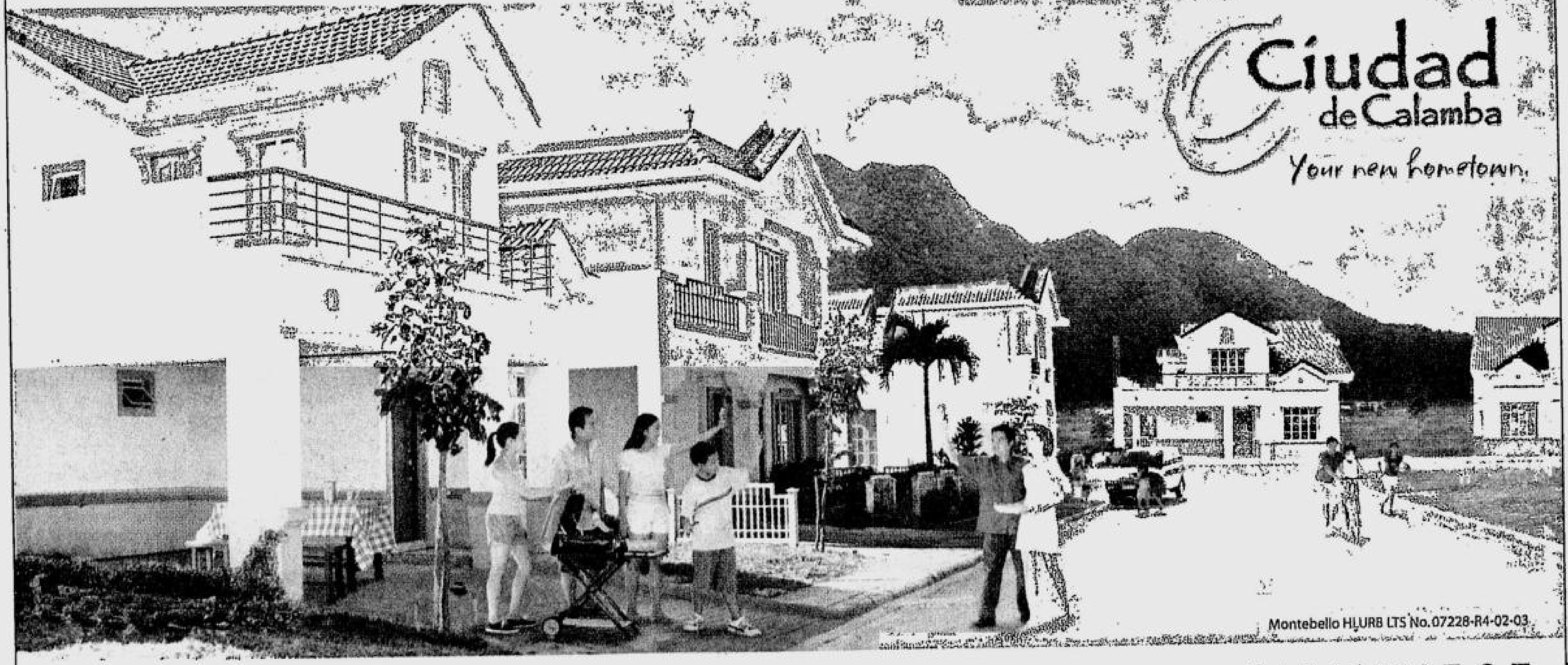

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FUN in the sunset

QUALITY control

Ad campaign paints wild colors of summer

THE STORY behind an ad campaign is where the real magic is—it's the alchemy of intensive planning, endless meetings, and countless exchange of ideas that turns a seed of creative vision into a hot-summer fashion campaign.

FASHIONABLE stance

Case in point is Rustan's Summer of Style 2005 campaign. All the ingredients that send the local fashion scene into a tizzy are all there—hot locations, hotter models, incendiary clothing. But the glitzy photos and provocative ads are only half the story.

"It was a real adventure!" recounts Lov Gotao, advertising manager of Rustan's. "For starters, we trekked to a great location for the shoot, plus we got a boost from a pool of international talents, and that required a lot of planning and preparation."

Rustan's creative team, along with advertising agency Creative Concepts Incorporated, fashion and style consultant Anton Mendoza, and makeup artist Henri Calayag took to the alabaster sands and butter sunsets of a picturesque hideaway in search of the perfect location.

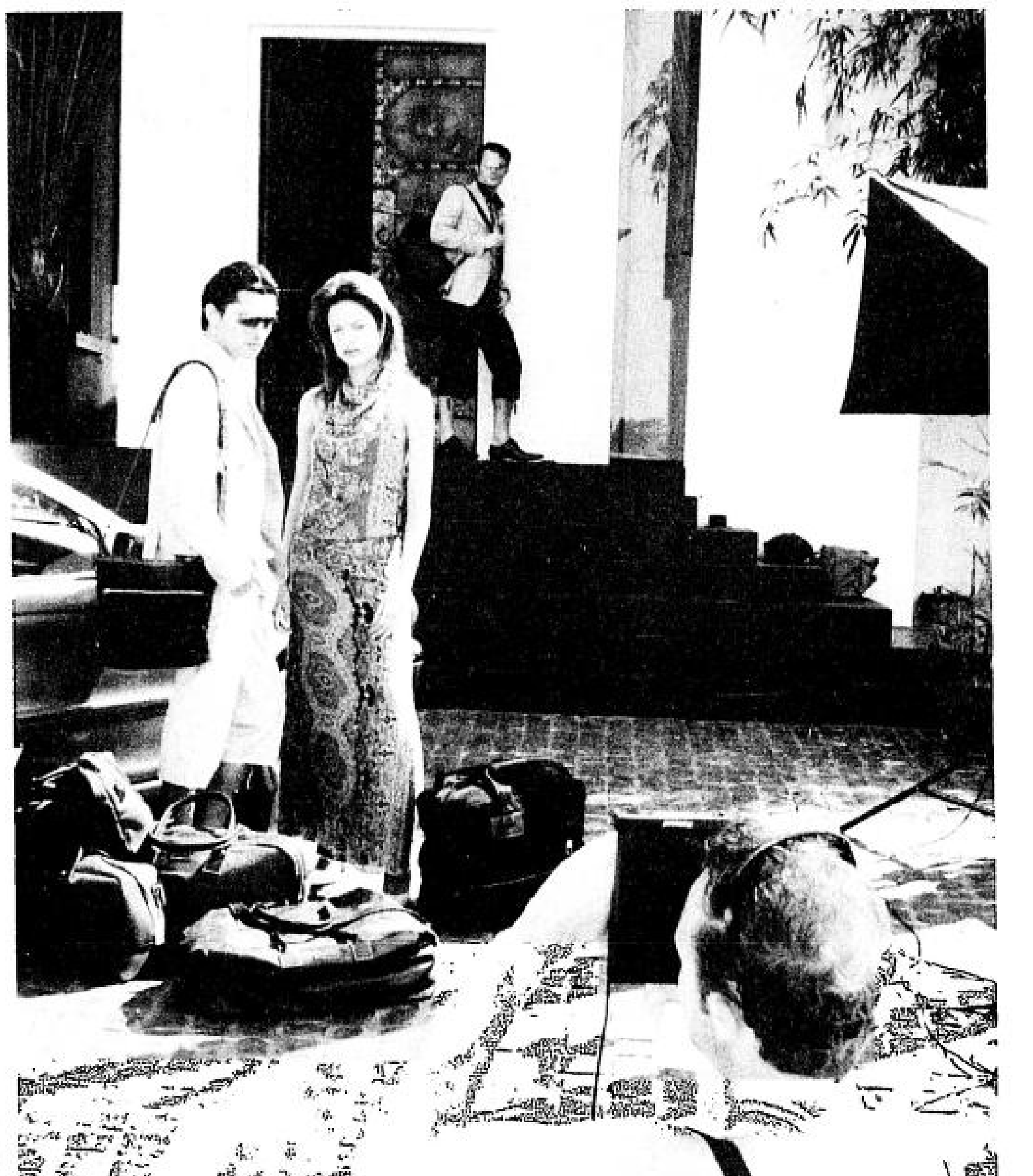
Rustan's also employed the services of New York-based Australian shuttersmith Darren Tieste. "Darren brings out the beauty of the Philippines, but still adds a global flair to the shoot," says Joel V. Tantoco, vice president for marketing services.

Celebrities such as Chris Klein, Nicole Richie, Tara Reid and Rachel Bilson and the cast of "OC" have all been subjects of Darren's lenswork. His photos have appeared in Men's Style, D&A and Harper's Bazaar, Cosmopolitan, Vogue, and the Ministry, London's premier music magazine.

And to all the "Manhunt" fans out there—remember that episode where the models did a 4 a.m. photo shoot by the pool? That was Darren clicking away.

"Portraying the elegance and chicness of Rustan's and all the high-end fashion it carries is what signed me up for the project. My vision in this project is to give it an editorial fashion feel that's at par with the standards of the world's best fashion magazines," says Darren.

Furthering the campaign's global appeal were top international models. Ilonah Novacek from Australia has appeared in the runways of New York, Milan and Paris. Ignacio Casano is from Argentina and Yavor Veselinov is from Bulgaria.



GOING places

"It's the models that supply the drama, the story. The models served as the blank canvases vividly painted on that gave life to the Rustan's Summer of Style," says Lov.

"The style of summer in Rustan's echoes the sun-kissed hotspots and the global playgrounds of the rich and famous—sunset parties in Palm Beach, mile-high sailing in Mykonos, and gyrating to heady tunes in Ibiza," says Mendoza.

Mendoza's flair for fashion is evident in a mélange of breezy summer casuals and ultra luxurious blazers, dress pants, and floor-length dresses he styled for Rustan's to complement the season.

The campaign is a series of four ads—Swept Away, Splash, Glam Trip, and Sunset.

Swept Away portrays an interplay of textures, colors and other design coordinates—from bursting hues to subdued blacks, and edgy silhouettes and elegant cuts.

Splash embodies the refreshing bliss of a frolic by the beach through the swimwear collection. The Glam Trip ad signifies a carefree summer spree as characterized by easy-to-wear clothes and luggage in tow.

The Sunset ad represents the searing heat of summer and the high fever emblazoned in Rustan's high-street fashion collections.

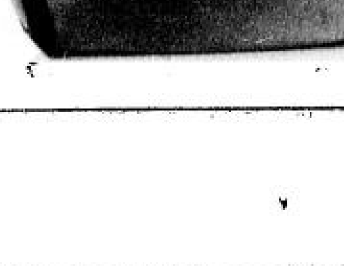
Bags with spiced-up chic

LADY game bag in fuchsia (also in mocha/pink and mocha/black)

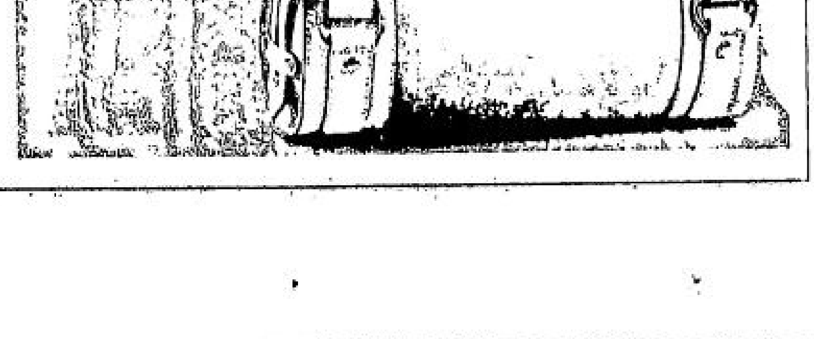
GLAMOUR'S the word for the Lancel collections this spring and summer 2005. In an abundance of glamorously seductive styles, this Lancel mix is one of spiced-up chic, unexpected contrasts and dazzling textures and patterns.

Have fun adapting and adopting the last word in style with the new collections of bags, luggage and briefcases, plus new lines of men's and women's accessories.

Available at Lancel shops in Shangri-La Plaza in Ortigas Center and Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati.



CANDY handbag in green (also in black, red and beige)



IMPULSE medium shoulder bag in pink (also available in taupe) and pink nubucked leather bag (also in mocha)

Totes for you

Not quite ready to go wild with a mélange of dazzling hues? Start off by using pastel-colored bags that can brighten up your wardrobe in a subtler way.

Pink and silver tote, P1,390; cloth bag with pink floral embroidery and wooden handles, P1,390; light-blue canvas tote, P1,390

Brighten up your wardrobe with vibrant summer hues

From page F1

de rigueur white tank.

If it suits your personality, you may also wear a splash of different colors and prints all at once. Think Lily Pulitzer, who has perfected the art of mixing brilliant hues and flamboyant patterns.

There are a million and one possibilities. Experiment, take a chance and in the process, enjoy creating a perfectly sparkling new you. Meanwhile, take inspiration from these colorful pieces that are probably all you need to beat the sweltering summer heat:

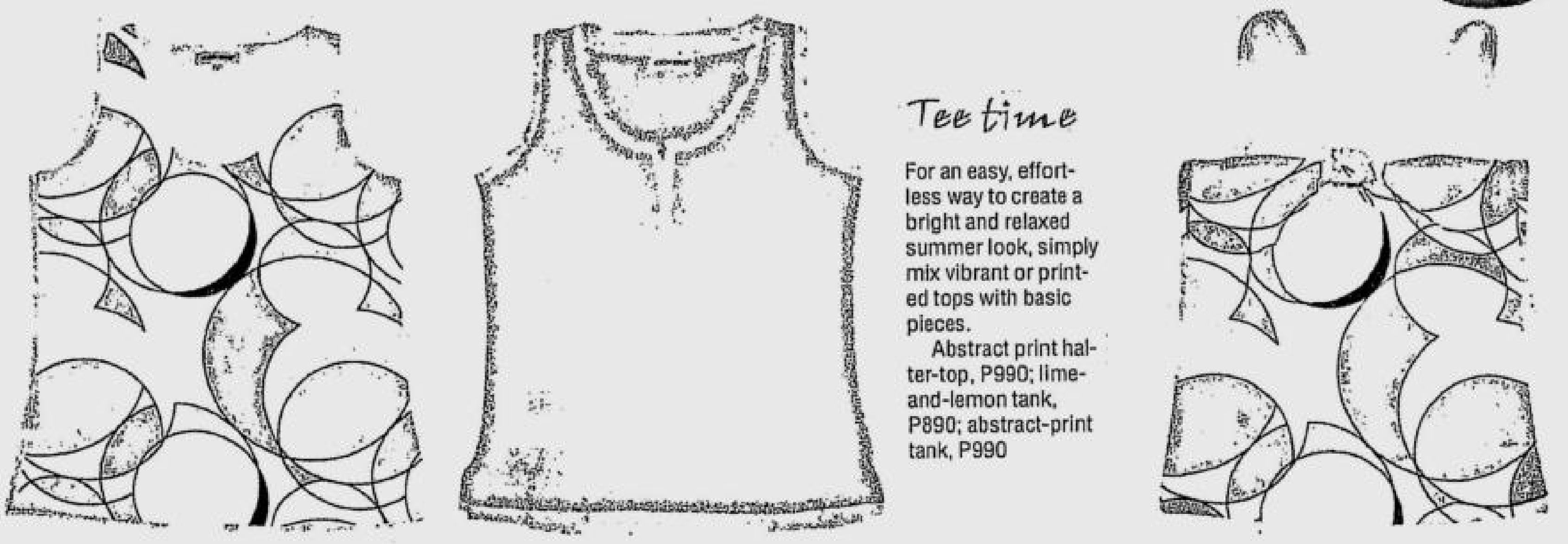
All items are available in Kickers boutiques in Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu, Glorietta 4, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, SM Megamall Building A, SM City North Edsa and SM Southmall.

E-mail the author at apsadvice@hotmail.com

Loafing around

Wear this bright, eye-catching loafers for casual Fridays at work or for weekends at the mall. They'll surely update your wardrobe basics and create an up-to-the-minute summer look.

Apple-green loafers with tan accents, P2,490; sky-blue patent loafers with buckle, P2,790; white-and-pink Pucci-inspired patent loafers, P2,490



Tee time

For an easy, effortless way to create a bright and relaxed summer look, simply mix vibrant or printed tops with basic pieces.

Abstract print halter-top, P990; lime-and-lemon tank, P890; abstract-print tank, P990

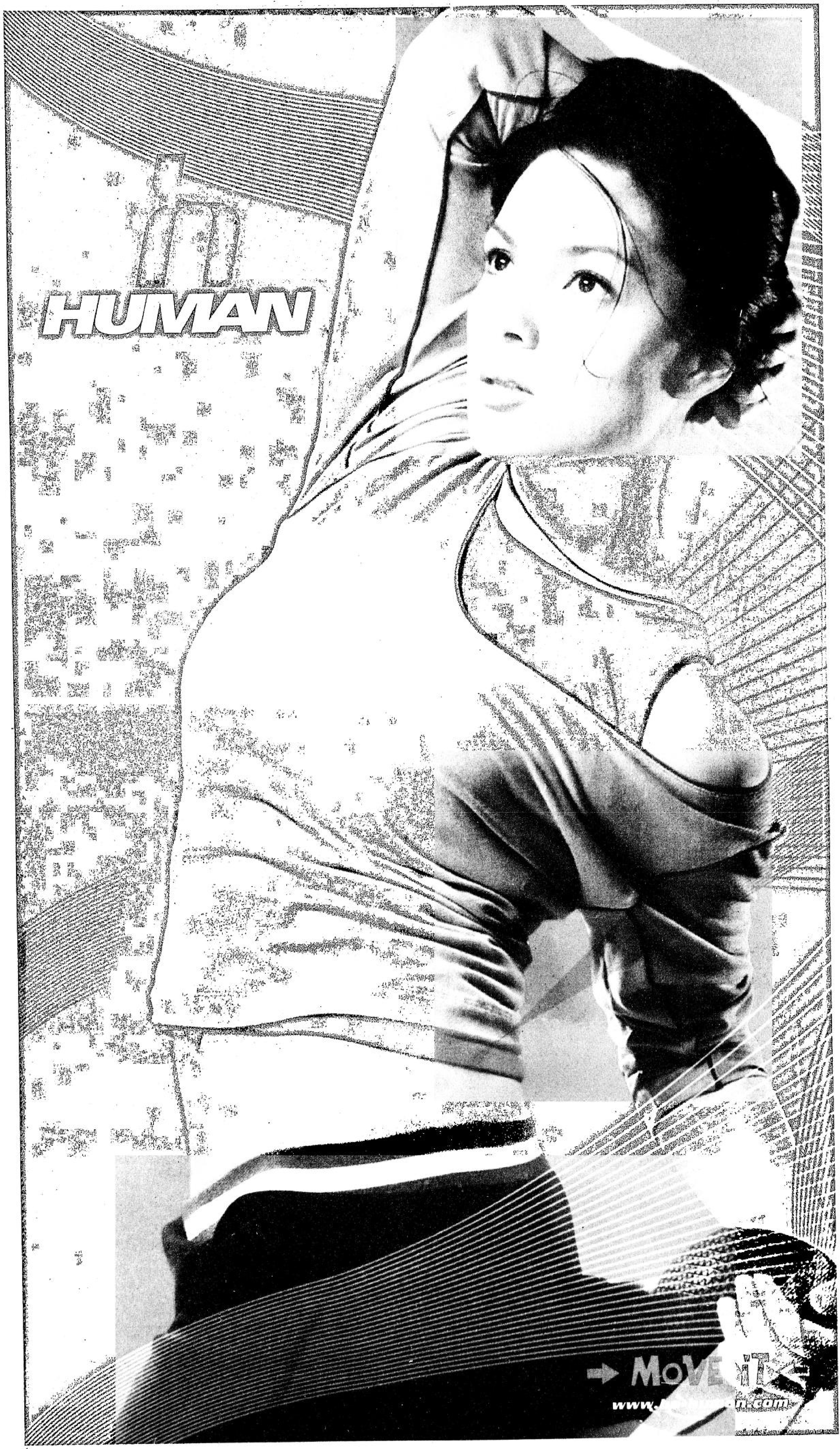
SCHOOL'S OUT!
ANTHEMS FOR GRADUATES THIS MARCH.

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG (850-3845)
2, 9, 16, 23, 30 - Music and More at the Mall
4, 11, 18 - Star Dance Revolution
12 - Faith Cuneta Album Tour

EDSA - SHAW (718-1886)
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Duet Singing Challenge
3, 10, 17, 20 - Stardanz
6 - Rainier Castillo Grand Fans Day
Wednesdays & Fridays -
Acoustic Nights at the Bridgeway

LAS PIÑAS (872-5249)
13 - Campus Dance Craze
3, 17 - Cool Acoustic Music at Mark's Sports Bar
10 - Jazz Rhythms at Mark's Sports Bar
11 - Faith Cuneta Mall Tour
14 - Music & Metaphor at the Wellness Hub
21 - Interludes of the Infinite at the Wellness Hub

starmall
Stay awhile.


HUMAN
→ MoVE iT
www.[illegible]n.com

Messages

Our warmest greetings to the Advertising Board of the Philippines, Inc. (ADBOARD) as you hold your 2005 Induction of Officers and Directors on 11 March 2005 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

With its membership consisting of nine national trade organizations representing over 1,000 companies from five sectors (advertisers, advertising agencies, the media, advertising suppliers and advertising support groups), AdBoard is at the vantage position to propel the advertising industry towards serving as a major contributor to Philippine economic progress.

It is heartening to note AdBoard's continuing commitment to protect consumer interests and uphold its social responsibility through self-regulation and the pursuit of truth and quality in advertising while promoting Filipino Values. For this year in particular, we commend AdBoard for putting in its priority list of projects its campaign for the formation of values, attitudes, behavior and lifestyles of Filipino through the advertising content it pushes via tri-media. Equally commendable is its campaign to go back to the basics by reintroducing its Advertising Content Regulation Committee (ACRC) Code of Ethics to its own members towards addressing the issue of why 50% of local ads are being challenged by various sectors. These are indeed the right steps in the right direction as AdBoard's efforts cannot be discounted in DTI's campaign to educate and empower consumers while continuing to enable business.

DTI's mandate of promoting the growth of trade and investments and restoring investor confidence is aided in no small measure by Adboard's initiatives to reflect the best that the Philippines and the Filipinos can offer in terms of our traits, values, culture and tradition, local goods and services, and of course our business climate and environment.

To AdBoard and its Incoming Officers and Board of Directors, our sincere congratulations and best wishes for success in 2005 as we jointly network towards promoting not only consumer welfare but also consumer confidence in advertising.

Mabuhay!

(Sgd.) **JUAN B. SANTOS**
Acting Secretary

ADBOARD was established more than 30 years ago to promote a concept of self-regulation. Self-regulation speaks not only of self-governance but more importantly, a recognition of the industry's responsibility to influence attitudes and lifestyles. ADBOARD works in a triangle: the nine member-associations, the advertising community, and the consumer.

The interests of the nine member-associations are expected to be protected. The uplift of the entire advertising industry is being targeted. More importantly, what completes the triangle is the Filipino consumer. ADBOARD is cognizant of the Filipino consumer's importance in our industry and we are very much aware of our responsibility in promoting the right values. ADBOARD will therefore strive to promote this advocacy within and outside the industry.

Time is of the essence and we know it is short. The race for value-formation is on. With God's help and together with all the '05 directors and all the AdBoard members, we will run the race differently this time.

RAUL S. ALVAREZ
2005 Adboard Chairman

AdBoard 2005: one step backward, three steps forward

Sometimes, in our effort to be the best in what we do, we try to do too many things that our original goal tends to suffer. For the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard), the best way to avoid the dilemma is to take a step backward to review its goals and three steps forward for a new set of plans according to those goals.

For more than thirty years, AdBoard has been through several Advertising Congresses, Araw Values Awards, industry seminars, management changes, and other productive transitions. It had a fair share of challenges along the way that for a time even put a cloud of doubt whether the organization is getting lax in its functions, or worse, if the public understands what the Adboard does. All these positive and negative events have transpired, and somewhere in the middle of everything is the organization's basic goal: to promote the advertising industry through self-regulation.

The 2005 AdBoard Officers and Board of Directors during their Business Planning Session at Evercrest, Tagaytay City

Under a new set of officers for the year 2005, Adboard intends to go back to the basic principle of self-regulation. This basic principle reminds all nine member associations of the organization's vision and mission to uphold truth and quality in advertising while looking after the welfare of consumers. It also revitalizes the five areas of endeavor represented in its logo: the advertiser, the advertising agency, media, advertising services sector, and the consumer sector.

By going back to this basic principle, Adboard re-ignites the three priority areas encompassed in the organization's vision and mission, which newly elected Chairman Raul Alvarez refers to as the Home (the internal organization), the Community (advertising industry), and the Nation/Filipino Consum[illegible] [illegible]. Although few things can be expected to materialize for the [illegible] Chairman Alvarez insists that these [illegible]

"There is nothing new in the Adboard, although we are constantly looking for ways to look at things from a different perspective. We will go back to the basics to look at our vision, mission, objectives, and why the Adboard is created. From there, we will see how we can be of better service to the industry, our member associations, and our consumers the way it should be done today. Advertising is a large industry, so we must not lose track of our responsibility to our home, the community, and the nation," says Chairman Alvarez.

continued on page G2

ADBOARD

This seal is symbolic of the five (5) areas of endeavor engaged in by the associations comprising AdBoard; Advertiser, Advertising Agency, Media, Advertising Services Sector and the Consumer Sector. The five (5) elements are shown as adjacent circles, which symbolize unity and harmony. They appear to be in motion, which depicts vitality and dynamism. The background is a deep blue field, which symbolizes social consciousness and service to the country.

VISION

The AdBoard will be recognized and respected as the VOICE of the advertising industry in the Philippines

A self-regulating body, which represents and protects the interest of the advertising community and its allied industry sectors as it safeguards the welfare of consumers.

A champion of responsible, truthful advertising and the highest standards of fair play and professional ethics.

Image keeper of advertising's invaluable role in economic activity and values formation.

MISSION

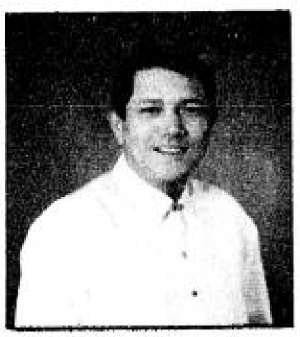
1. *To act as the coordinating body for self-regulation of the entire advertising industry.*

2. *To uphold the highest standards of trade practices and business ethics among the allied industry sectors, preserving harmony, unity and cooperation among the same.*

3. *To maintain public confidence in advertised products and services by professionalizing the practice of advertising and safeguarding truth and responsibility in advertising.*

4. *To foster social responsibility, promote good values and strengthen the industry's image as a vital contributor to economic progress and nation-building.*

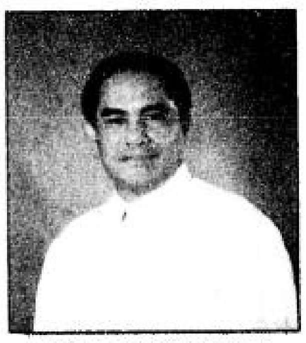
2005 OFFICERS



Chairman
RAUL S. ALVAREZ
AVP-Marketing Services
PLDT

Vice-Chairman
MA. TERESA D. VILLANUEVA
Senior Account Officer
Jimenez-Basic Advertising

Treasurer
PACIENCIA M. PINEDA
EVP/ Treasurer
Manila Bulletin



Corporate Secretary
EDGAR M. NAVALTA
President
Advtg. Suppliers Assoc. of the Phils. (ASAP)

PR Officer
RUPERTO S. NICDAO, JR.
President
Manila Broadcasting Co.

2005 MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

KHALIL O. KHODR, JR
Managing Director
Sell Co (Son et Lumierre)

MITOS F. CAMAHORT
President
Image Dimensions, Inc.

SUSAN L. DIMACALI
President
BBDO/ Guerrero Ortega

MA. SOCORRO M. PITARGUE
President
PC & V Communications

JOSE Y. SY
President
Film-Ads Philippines

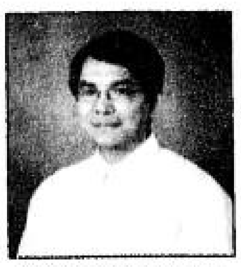
TESSIE CELESTINO-HOWARD
President
Airtime Marketing (Phils.)

JOSELITO G. YABUT
Chief Operating Officer
Primax Broadcasting Network

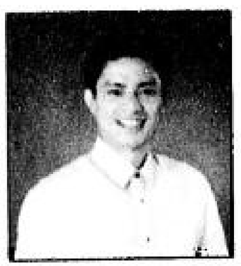
VIVIAN Y. TIN
VP-Research & Business Analysis
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.

CARLO S. LLAVE
President & General Manager
The Fourth Dimension, Inc.

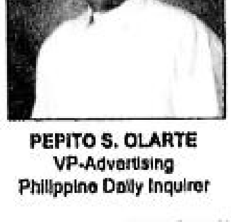
MA. BELEN M. FERNANDO
Marketing Director
Alaska Milk Corporation



ATTY. GAFAR E. LUTIAN
Sr. Legal Counsel
Procter & Gamble Phils.



EDGARDO G. SUNICO
Country Comm. Manager
Unilever Philippines, Inc.



PEPITO S. OLARTE
VP-Advertising
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Ex-Officio
SEC. CERGE M. REMONDE
Government Media Group

Executive Director
OSCAR T. VALENZUELA

9 MEMBER-ASSOCIATIONS

ASAP KBP UPMG PANA MORES

Advertising Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD)
Suite 6A Dao 1 Condominium, 189 Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 817-7724, 818-6113, 813-4398 and 810-5138 Fax No. 818-7109 Website. www.adboard.com.ph

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Adboard 2005: one step backward, three steps forward

From page G1

Foremost in the priority list of projects are campaigns for values formation and AdBoard appreciation, AdBoard systems and processes, and a new office.

The AdBoard realizes the magnitude of its effects in the formation of values, attitudes, behavior, and lifestyles of the Filipino through the advertising content it pushes via the tri-media. Advertising has the power to influence consumer decisions, and therefore it has to be responsible enough to promote good values through advertising without veering away from brand objectives. Creativity will be challenged in this year-long campaign, asking advertising practitioners to take a second look at creative campaigns that will help form a productive society.

On the other hand, there seems to be a growing need for the AdBoard to reintroduce itself not only to the public but even to its own members. It is not a secret that 50 percent of ads are being challenged by various sectors, prompting the question on whether members really know the Advertising Content and Regulation Committee (ACRC) Code of Ethics by heart. The ACRC is the AdBoard body that reviews and gives clearances to ad materials before airing. Through an information and education campaign, admen will become more knowledgeable and eventually become experts in the advertising code of ethics. With confidence, they will be able to convince everyone concerned that self-regulation works!

Before these things can be done, the AdBoard has to "start in its own backyard, so to speak". A new website will be put up to allow the public access to important information about the advertising industry. It will also serve as a venue for getting feedback from consumers. Even the Adboard staff will benefit from skills training that will professionalize their business. Processes and systems will be reviewed and improved if necessary to facilitate faster service.

The Adboard is also looking at moving into a new office within the year to take advantage of prevailing market conditions in terms of office rentals. Ideally, the new office will be a building that can accommodate staff from all 9 member organizations. This way, functions will be centralized and faster.

Other projects lined up include health and death benefits for advertising practitioners called Ad Aid. This is intended for those who have worked for or with any of the AdBoard member associations within 12 months. There are also moves to review Memoranda of Agreement made with government institutions like DTI, BFAD, MTRCB, and DOLE that separates Adboard's role as an independent self-regulating body for advertising.

To make things happen, the Adboard will hire three project managers who will focus on the three priority areas. Hopefully, results can be seen and felt within the next six months. It's an enormous task anchored on simple plans, as Chairman Alvarez believes that simplifying tasks makes things work.

"The Adboard will be running a different race starting this year. No matter how humongous the task may seem, all we need to do is cut it into pieces so we can overcome it little by little. We will make sure that this year's vision will be realized: Self-regulation works!" You can almost see Chairman Alvarez's eyes sparkle the way you would in advertising special effects. All he has to do is lead the step backward and encourage the three steps forward.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ DONATION TO PHIL. NATIONAL RED CROSS JANUARY 25, 2005 TOWER CLUB

ADBOARD
ADVERTISING BOARD OF THE PHILIPPINES

DURING its first general membership meeting for the year 2005, the AdBoard gave the Philippine Red Cross its donation for the landslide and flood victims of Quezon. Accepting the donation is Senator Richard Gordon.

THE ADBOARD'S Trade Practices and Conduct Review Committee turned over the Revised Standards of Trade Practice and Conduct Manual to the AdBoard Board of Directors. Shown in photo are (from left): Jones Campos (Globe Telecom), Vira Arceo (RSA Mktg.), Sec. Cerge Remonde (2004 AdBoard Chairman), Tong Puno (TPCC Review Committee Chairman) and Jose Sy (Film-Ads).

19th Advertising Congress launched

ONE of the advertising industry's biggest events—the Philippine Advertising Congress—will be formally launched on April 14 at Greenbelt 3 Park in Makati City.

The 19th Ad Congress overall chair Meryl Graham-Schlachterman of VigraPost Inc will deliver the welcome remarks.

"I am confident we will have another winner in this year's staging of the Ad Congress as I have a team of highly professional and committed people in the executive committee," Schlachterman said.

This year's PAC will find its way back in the premier city of Cebu, which hosted the event four years ago. This early, the ad industry is abuzz with preparation to make sure that the congress will be better than the last.

"I think that is the mark of excellence—making sure that we give all our best in everything that we do," Schlachterman added.

This Congress will also showcase the capability of the women to deliver and deliver only the best. This year's executive committee members are predominantly women.

The Ad Congress has traditionally been a showcase of the advertising industry's creativity, ingenuity and teamwork. A very dynamic organization of media professionals, the Ad Congress usually chooses a theme that tackles issues that confront the industry in the domestic and international front.

Advertising Congress returns to Cebu

CEBU once again hosts the gathering of the best minds in the Philippine advertising industry in this year's 19th staging of the Philippine Advertising Congress to be held at the Waterfront Hotel in November.

The most awaited event in the advertising industry will carry the theme, "Ready for the World."

Is the Philippine advertising creative scene at par with the global standard? Or are we still outsiders looking in? Have we raised the bar in advertising excellence or have we remained parochial and infantile? Go figure during the event.

The Venue

Cebu is no stranger to hosting big media events and always it has proven itself worthy.

The island-province of Cebu sits in the heart of the Philippine archipelago. Its metropolitan area is the country's second biggest city, and, along with its adjacent Mactan Island, has become a favorite tour destination of foreigners.

It possesses an urban ambiance but retains its provincial flavor. It abounds with shopping malls, fast food outlets, golf courses and resort hotels although the standard of living and cost of goods are a lot cheaper.

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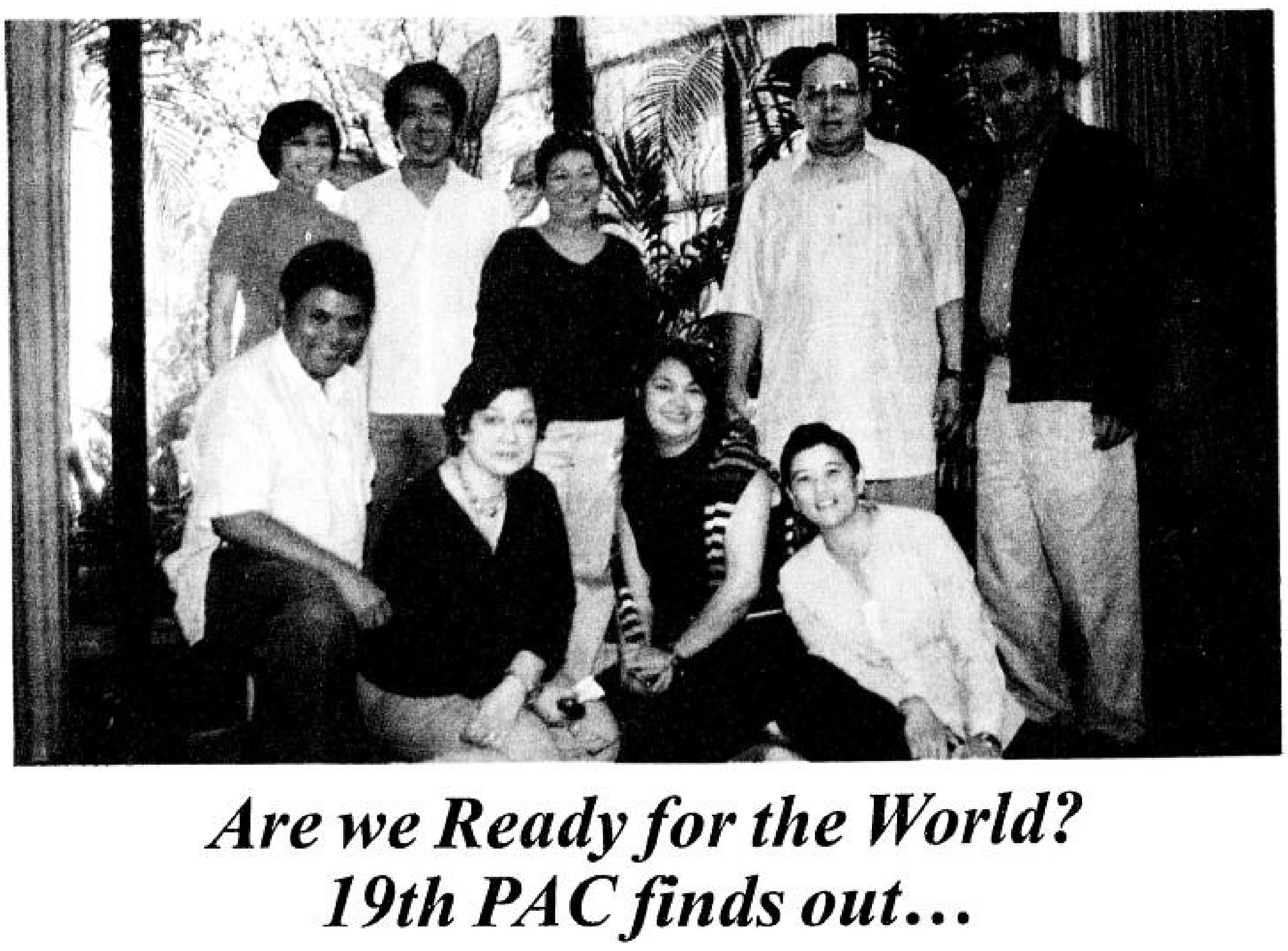
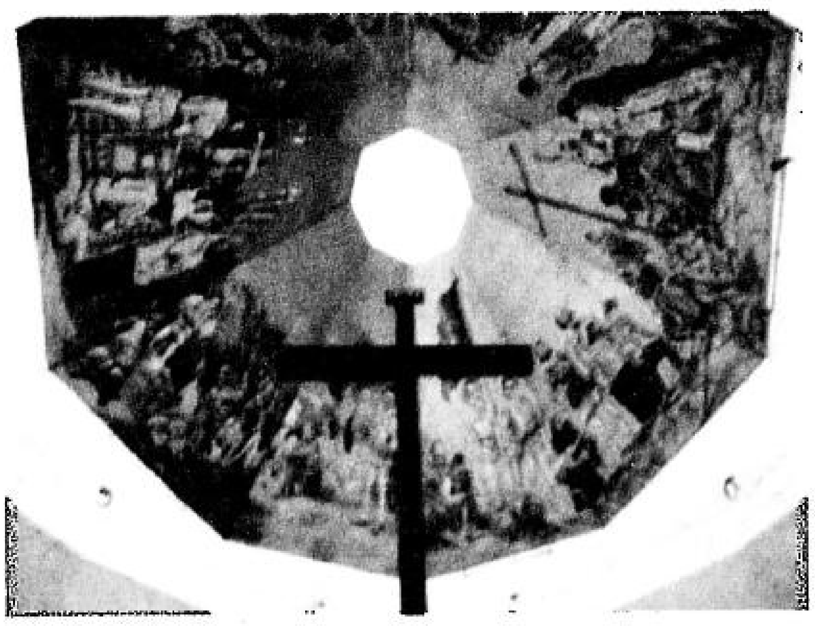
Ready for Cebu?





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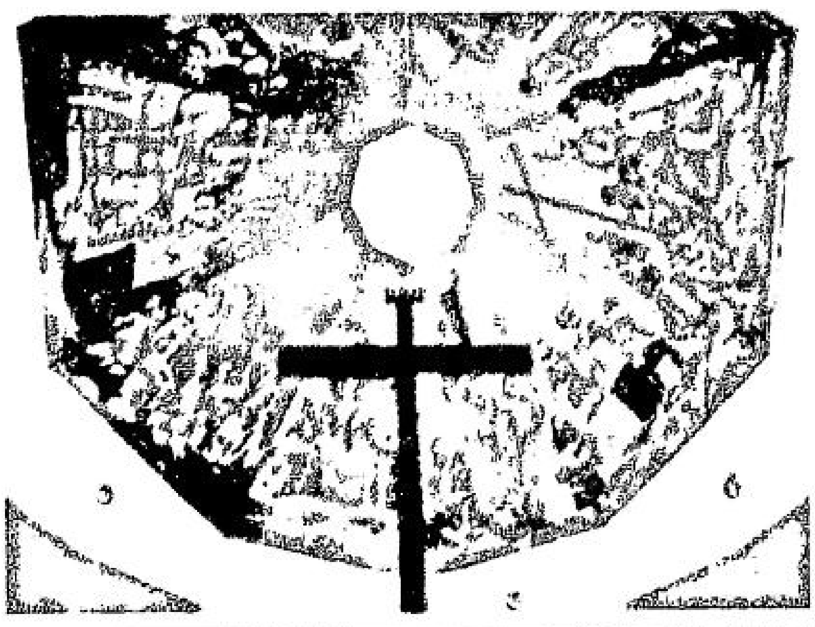

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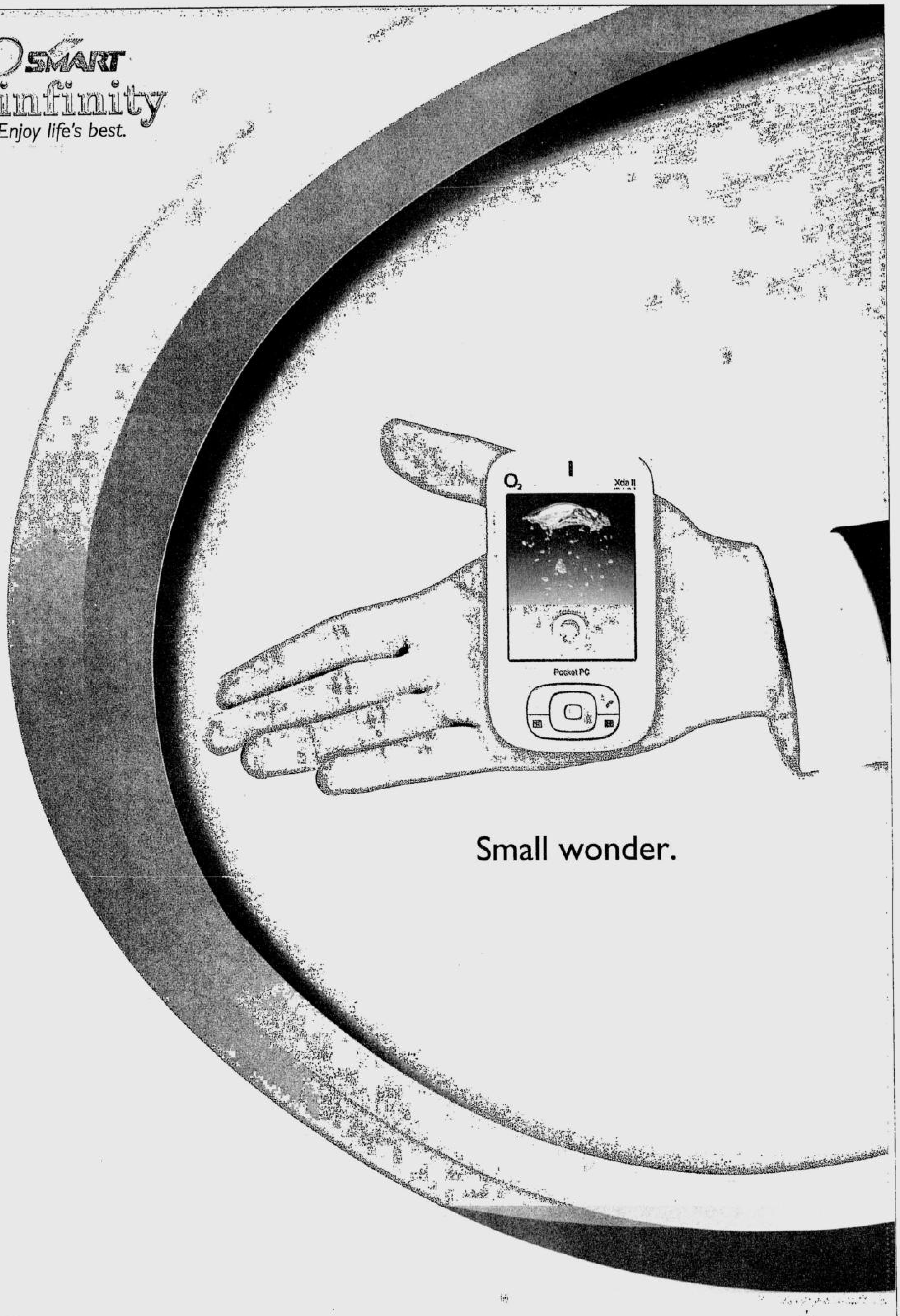
SMART
infinity
Enjoy life's best.



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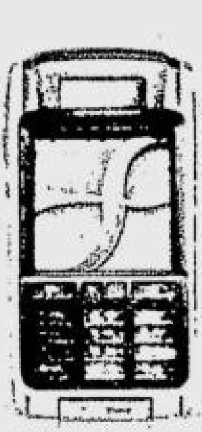
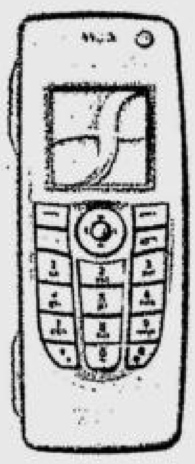
Treo 650



Sony Ericsson P910i



Nokia 9300

Nokia 9500

Another first from SMART Infinity. Introducing the O2 Xda II mini – the smallest PDA-phone with a 1.3 megapixel digital camera.

Compact versatility. This best describes the O2 Xda II mini. Only 108 millimeters tall, it comes with powerful features that allow you to accomplish tasks virtually anywhere you are.

The O2 Xda II mini is equipped with:

- Microsoft Windows Mobile Pocket PC platform.
- A built-in 1.3 megapixel digital camera.
- Bluetooth, Infrared, and GPRS connectivity.
- Tri-band mobility.
- 64MB internal memory.
- MMC card slot for memory expansion.

Avail of the O2 Xda II mini or other featured handsets under SMART Infinity and receive a complimentary Jabra Bluetooth Headset – the only one of its kind with up to 8 hours talk time and up to 240 hours stand-by time.

Subscribe to SMART Infinity and enjoy the convenience of:
- A Dedicated Infinity Management Officer to handle all details about your subscription.
- 24/7 Customer Service via SMART Infinity's exclusive Hotline Number *800.
- An International Concierge Service simply by dialling 63-SMART (63-76278).

For inquiries, call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111.

I ♥ SMART
Simply Amazing!

Filipino Values shining bright at the Araw Values Awards

ADBOARD

In an effort to promote and recognize advertisements that successfully communicate Filipino values, the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) proudly presented the fourth edition of the Araw Values Awards with the theme "Let Filipino Values Shine."

Spearheaded by AdBoard's Values Promotion Committee, this award program is made possible by the Araw Values Awards Organizing Committee [illegible] committee [illegible]

Under the Araw or "Advertising Recognition Awards" are two award programs celebrated in alternate years that seek to honor the finest in the advertising industry. While the Araw Creative Awards acknowledges the inventive and imaginative genius of local ads, the Araw Values Awards brings to the fore local ads that consciously advocate and proliferate messages steeped with morals and traditional Filipino values.

Advertisements qualified to join the competition must successfully highlight any of Araw's seven cornerstone values. These include love of God and respect for religious beliefs; commitment to truth, honesty and justice; love of country and respect for national customs and traditions; reverence for family unity and inviolability of marriage; respect and care for human life and dignity and the rights of all; respect for law and authority and the promotion of self-discipline; and concern for and preservation of the environment.

This year, the Araw Values Awards Organizing Committee received more than 300 entries, a healthy increase from the 240 entries submitted in 2002. The entries were eventually narrowed down during the preliminary judging to 110 finalists eligible to win a bronze, silver, gold or platinum honor.

Competing in 2 divisions

The industry's finest advertisements competed in two divisions. Under Branded Communications, entries include ads that simultaneously sell products and services or directly promote the advertiser while encouraging any of the Araw Cornerstone Values.

In the Advocacies division, entries consist of media messages that directly uphold any of the Araw Cornerstone Values or raise awareness on contemporary social issues. Also in the mix are corporate communications that exalt values and ethical principles.

The entries were judged by a renowned jury of the country's top advertising creative directors and agency heads, publication editors, marketing managers and directors, media network creative personnel and production house directors. They weeded through all the submissions to find ads that have the right balance of Value Message, Creative Excellence and Credibility under the Araw Values Awards criteria.

Though some might think that ads unabashedly portraying traditional values may alienate today's liberal viewers, the Araw Values Awards prove otherwise. Banguis elaborates on how Filipino values and sensibilities translated into powerful advertisements not only win awards, they actually sell.

"Our Araw Values awardees are great examples of ads that not only promote good values and are creatively executed but they also build business. The advertisers behind those ads are all market leaders and winners. But they also have a strong orientation towards the positive."

With the theme "Let Filipino Values Shine," the AdBoard only hopes that the message the Araw Values Awards tries to impart may reverberate through the advertising industry.

CONGRATULATIONS
to the
2005 Officers and Directors
of the Advertising Board
of the Philippines
(ADBOARD) ADBOARD

from:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

INQUIRER LIBRE
CEBU DAILY NEWS
An Affiliate of the Philippine Daily Inquirer
INQ TV
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JUST SHOP
Bandera
NG ATING BAYAN
INQ7.net
Tumbok
Sapul ang balita. Swak ang suwerte
INQUIRER Badminton Monthly
FORBES in touch
The exclusive publication for the homeowners and residents of Forbes Park
PRINT TOWN
INQUIRER Golf
AAVA NEWS MONTHLY
Lexmedia DIGITAL
Junior INQUIRER
South Express
Newspaper Paraphernalia, Inc.

The Philippines braces for Cannes 2005

By Hazell Manuel-Gonzales

THE YEAR 2005 will undoubtedly be one of the most celebrated years for the Philippine advertising industry as doors of global opportunities open to more and more Filipinos today. For one, the appointment of Emily Abrera as a member in this year's Cannes Lions Press and Outdoor Jury is a remarkable evidence of the increasing global recognition of Filipino creativity and excellence. As chair emeritus of McCann-Erickson, her extensive experience, excellent talent and outstanding accomplishments in the industry have earned her distinguished awards and numerous citations. Her selection indeed as Philippine jury member has created much excitement and anticipation in the industry. Aspirations are running high as this appointment will serve as a channel for the Cannes jury, predominantly a panel of American and European admen, to better understand the unique cultural underpinnings of Asian, particularly Philippine, advertising. Moreover, her insights and distinctiveness as a woman will have a valuable impact in this year's international [illegible]

Another notable milestone in the industry is the sending of our country's first team to compete in the Young Creatives Competition in Cannes this year. The selection of Philippine representatives was not an easy feat as those who emerged victorious passed through the selective styles and discriminating preferences of the judges. The panel of well-respected and admired top industry creatives and leaders consisted of Richard Irvine, David Guerrero, Melvin Mangada, Raul Castro, Micky Domingo and Ompong Remigio. Proclaimed winners of the Camp Creatives were Juan Benjamin Berdin Jr and Carlo Antonio Jimenez, both from Jimenez Basic Advertising. They will represent the country in Cannes and compete with some 20 young teams from other countries.

Exposed to world's best

While only a handful will be able to witness the international advertising festival, exposure to the world's best ads will certainly be made available to the local industry as the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the country's official Cannes Festival Representative, together with the Advertising Board of the Philippines will bring to the country the 2005 Lions in November. This time, the 2005 Cannes Lion winners will find themselves in the historical "Queen City of the South"—Cebu—and will generate greater excitement among agencies and advertisers during the National Advertising Congress, whose theme "Are You Ready for the World?" could not be more appropriate. This year's "Cannes in Cebu" will not only expose the local industry to world-class advertising standards but will also underscore the value of international advertising forums and competitions with the presence of Terry Savage, CEO of the 52nd Cannes International Advertising Festival to be held in France this June 19 to 25.

This worthwhile endeavor will hopefully create the same or even exceed last year's "Cannes fever" which has generated a renewed commitment in the industry to upgrade advertising standards in the Philippines; to increase agency participation in Cannes; and to provide special recognition to Cannes winning entries from the Philippines.

The year 2005 is indeed an exciting year for the Philippine Advertising landscape. Faced with the challenge to become globally competitive, these remarkable developments will inspire our brothers and sisters in the business to create world-class ads. Hopefully, these creative ads will not only raise Philippine standards but also put the country in the map of global advertising. To our Philippine representatives and delegates, we wish you all the best and may your work continue to encourage others to aspire for greater glory for the country.

ADBOARD

2005 ADBOARD BUSINESS PLANNING SESSION
Feb. 18-19, 2005, Evercrest, Tagaytay City

A GREAT THING MADE EVEN BETTER

GLOBE G CASH

MORE SERVICES, MORE PARTNERS

From payments to purchases, international remittance to domestic money transfer, G-Cash has ignited our imagination to no end. Today, we evolve it even further. Now you can make donations, pay for various government services and buy load credits via G-Cash. Soon, rural folk can receive and pay their loans with this service.

All these, together with the honor of being chosen as the **Best Mobile Messaging Service** by the GSM Awards 2005 in France, we offer to the Filipinos. With the help of a growing number of partners, we continue our commitment to find new and better ways to make lives easier and strengthen the ties that bind us all.

G-Cash. Gawang Pilipino. Para sa Pilipino. Hinahangaan sa buong mundo.

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING PARTNERS

G-CASH PAYMENTS VIA TEXT
Pay for goods and services via G-Cash. Now accepted at these establishments: Burger King • Max's (Delivery) • National Bookstore • Mercury Drug • Sure Seats • ABS-CBN Interactive • E-2-Door • Superferry

New Partners: Shakey's (Dine-In & Take-out in selected outlets & Delivery) • Jollibee (Delivery) Goldilocks (selected branches) • Executive Optical Gold's Gym (pay for entrance fee) • Fully Booked Bibliarch • BIR (business registration renewal) Filipino Doctors Health Alliance • Urban Spa • UP Engineering Research & Dev't Foundation • Westin Philippine Plaza (room reservation) • Manson Drug (selected branches) • Montage • Sketch Books Chris Sports Equipment • Ortigas Home Depot

G-CASH INTERNATIONAL REMITTANCE
The fast and secure way of sending remittance via text. Friends and families abroad can go to any of these partners to exchange their cash to G-Cash: iRemit Global Remittance (Hong Kong, Canada, Singapore, Australia, UK, Taiwan) • Gen-Ex Cargo (Hong Kong) Fareast Express Remittance Ltd. (Hong Kong, UK) CGNCOM S.r.l. (Italy) • RFC Ltd. (Hong Kong)

New Partners: Philippine Tropical Express (Canada) Global Peso Express (Canada)

G-CASH DOMESTIC MONEY TRANSFER
Now you can send G-Cash anywhere in the Philippines through these partners: Globe Telecom Business Centers Globelines Payments and Services Centers • the Hub Cebuana Lhuillier • LBC • Prime Asia Pawn and Jewelry Shop, Inc. • Tambunting MTO Pawnshop • 7-11 (CASH IN only)

New Partners: Aboitiz One, Inc. (2GO Cash Delivery) SM Supermalls • Wealth Bank • Tambunting JPT Pawnshop • Metro Gaisano

PARAMI NA NANG PARAMING MGA SERBISYO

LOAN PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH
With the help of the Rural Bankers Assoc. of the Phils. (RBAP), soon it will be easier and more convenient for the rural folk to get and pay their loans without traveling long distances.

CHARITY CONTRIBUTIONS VIA G-CASH
You can now make donations or contributions to UNICEF, RED CROSS and the PHIL. SPORTS COMMISSION via G-Cash.

G-CASH LOAD
With G-Cash, you can now load your own or someone else's cellphone with ease.

SERVICES PAYMENTS VIA G-CASH
Pay for services offered by government agencies like the BIR, and soon Phil health, without even leaving your home.

GAMING VIA G-CASH
Now you can pay for your RAGNAROK online playing time using G-Cash.

Text G-CASH and send to 2882
Go to any Globe Telecom Business Center, present a valid ID and exchange your cash to G-Cash.

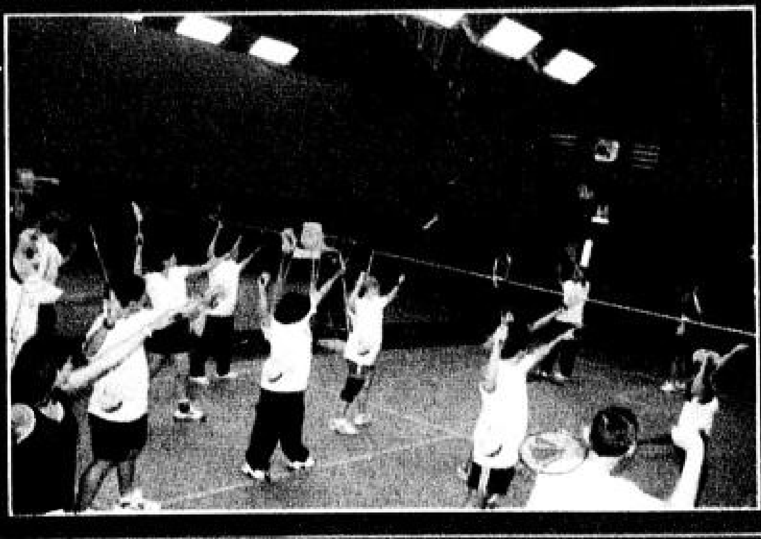
proud to make great things possible for the Filipino

TM
Ang Bagong Touch Mobile

Globe
HANDYPHONE

ADBOARD

ADBOARD COMMITTEES



ZONE
8
ACRC BADMINTON FUN DAY
ADBOARD

ADVERTISING Regulation Content Committee (ACRC) Badminton Fun Day, held last January 2005 at "The Zone", Makati City.

'Its objective is to come up with fundraising activities that would realize the primary objective of the organization in reaching out to the underprivileged and touching more lives in time of crisis.'

AdBoard by definition

AdBoard, by general definition, is an umbrella organization made up of representatives from major associations in advertising for the purpose of promoting advertising through self-regulation. These organizations are the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies- Philippines (4As), the United Print Media Group (UPMG), the Independent Blocktimers Association of the Philippines (IBA), the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP), the Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), the Cinema Advertising Association of the Philippines (CAAP), the Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (As-ap) and the Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores).

"What we basically stand for is truth in advertising," says Oscar T. Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director. 'And as well as the practice of advertising in this country. These are our 'apostolates.'

"We make it a point to regulate advertising content—to see to it that essentially its delivery of the message is the truth. As well as exercise supervision over the presentation of these sales messages," he continues. "We have one thing in mind, which is the welfare of the Philippine consumer, that they get something which is true and presented in acceptable terms."

However, Valenzuela adds for emphasis, advertising is not the AdBoard's only concern. As a corporate body, the AbBoard is keenly aware of its responsibility to come to the assistance of the Filipino in his various needs.

"In the course of a business year, AdBoard has certain fund raising projects," says Valenzuela. "Last September, we had a golf tournament where we were able to raise funds. Last December, we had the Advertising Values Awards Night, which was a competition for values advertising, and we also realized some money - while, that was not the main purpose for the Values Awards, we still realized some amount from ticket sales. And of course, the every other year event, which is the Advertising Congress, also yields us some money. So by judicious investments we were able to set aside certain pools of money that we can set aside and give to worthy causes."

From immediate needs to long-term support, the AdBoard has been doing its part in helping our fellowmen.

Some of us may remember the advertising campaign "Help MindaNOW" back in 2000. The AdBoard launched it to bring our attention to the plight of our fellow Filipinos in war-torn Mindanao. It encouraged concerned citizens to send relief goods such as food, clothing, medicine, and care products through the AdBoard and the Caritas Foundation.

Last year, The Children's Hour was relaunched, the Adboard chipped in and gave a sizeable donation from the proceeds of the National Advertising Congress. The donations through this fundraiser were given to various charity institutions for children and the youth such as Bantay Bata, Tabang Mindanaw II, International Deaf Education Association, Kamalayan Development Foundation, Bulig Foundation, the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education, and the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Street Children Project.

Every year, on Valentine's Day, the AdBoard makes it a point to raise money and goods, like personal care products, and send them to Senden Home—a shelter for street children founded by Dutch missionary Fr. Francis Senden. It is located in Paco, Manila. They take care of children ages 7 to 18, treating them for sickness and/or given therapy, and schooled in-house or through an outreach program. "From way back, since 1986, Senden Home has been a regular beneficiary knowing that it is not as well known as other charitable organizations," shares Valenzuela

The AdBoard's ways and means committee has also conceptualized a charitable program of its own - Adaid-Kalinga sa Kapwa. "Its objective is to come up with fundraising activities that would realize the primary objective of the organization in reaching out to the underprivileged and touching more lives in time of crisis."

The AdBoard Cup is the main fundraising component of the Adaid program. So far, this has enabled them to give some assistance to the Freedom Fund for Filipino Journalists—specifically to the families of the journalists who have been slain. Also, the money raised was used to provide desks and chairs to a public school in Tanauan. And another part of the proceeds was given to aid hospital patients who need immediate medical attention but cannot afford treatment.

"You don't foresee accidents or events such as the one in Quezon," Valenzuela points out, "but we make it a point, whatever we can, to be of some assistance." Hence, the AdBoard continues its fundraising activities because there is always room for assistance somewhere.

In the light of the calamity Southern Luzon went through at end of 2004, AdBoard pooled its resources once again and reached out to help. During its first general membership meeting for the year 2005, the AdBoard gave the Philippine Red Cross its donation for the landslide and flood victims of Quezon.

Senator Richard Gordon, after accepting the donation for the Red Cross, closed his thank you speech by saying, "In this act of giving, the AdBoard has defined itself."

Judging from its track record, as long as there is a need, AdBoard will continue to define itself for years to come.

City of Manila
MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY
Present
2005 MANILA BAY Festival
WITNESS THE EXCITEMENT LIVE!
MARCH 12-13, 2005 BAYWALK, ROXAS BLVD. MANILA
featuring:
MOTORIZED BANGKA RACING
DRAGON BOAT ROWING COMPETITION
LIVE CONCERT
Globe HANDYPHONE
CALTEX
BRIGGS & STRATTON
TEAM LBC HARI NG PADALA!
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
GOLD EAGLE BEER
METHYL SALICYLATE MENTHOL SALONPAS
Ibuprofen Medicol

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

ADBOARD MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

1. ADVERTISING SUPPLIERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (ASAP)

Address : Unit 2302, 23/F, Cityland 10
Tower 2 HV dela Costa St.,
Salcedo Village Makati City
Tel #s : 893-0564 or 893-0738
Fax # : 893-0404
E-mail : asapsec@pacific.net.ph
Chairman : Khalil O. Khodr, Jr.
President : Edgar Navalta
Exec. Sec : Ms. Lolit Diezmo

2. ASSOCIATION OF ACCREDITED ADVERTISING AGENCIES-PHILIPPINES (4As)

Address : Unit 442 Cityland Pasong
Tamo Tower Chino Roces
Avenue, Makati City
Tel #s : 893-1205 or 813-4397 or
757-3891
Fax # : 757-3892
E-mail : 4asp@skyinet.net
Website : www.4as.ph
Chairman : Susan Dimacali
President : Mitos Camahort
Exec. Dir : Ms. Vanne T. Tomada

3. CINEMA ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (CAAP)

Address : c/o Celestial Media Services
21C Burgundy Tower, 252
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Tel #s : 844-6004 to 05
President : Jose Sy
Corp. Sec. : Ms. Rose Bacani

4. INDEPENDENT BLOCKTIMERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (IBA)

Address : c/o Airtime Marketing
(Philippines Suite 503
Manila Luxury Condominium
Pearl Drive cor. Goldloop,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel #s : 635-3519 or 634-8723
Fax # : 632-1069
Chairman Ricky Velez
President: Tessie Celestino-Howard

5. KAPISANAN NG MGA BRODKASTER NG PILIPINAS (KBP)

Address : 6/F LTA Building, Perea
Street Legaspi Village,
Makati City
Tel #s : 815-1990 to 92
Fax # : 815-1989
E-mail :kbp@pacific.net.ph
Website :www.kbp.org.ph
Chairman : Lito Yabut
President : Ruperto S. Nicdao, Jr.
Exec. Dir : Mr. Reynaldo Hulog

6. MARKETING & OPINION RESEARCH SOCIETY OF THE PHILIPPINES (MORES)

Address : Unit 42 Martino Building 52
Libertad cor. Kanlaon
Streets, Mandaluyong City
Tel #s : 533-6653
Fax # : 531-5204
E-mail : mores@I-manila.com.ph
President : Vivian Tin
Exec. Sec. : Ms. Bing Porcia

7. OUTDOOR ADVERTISING ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (OAAP)

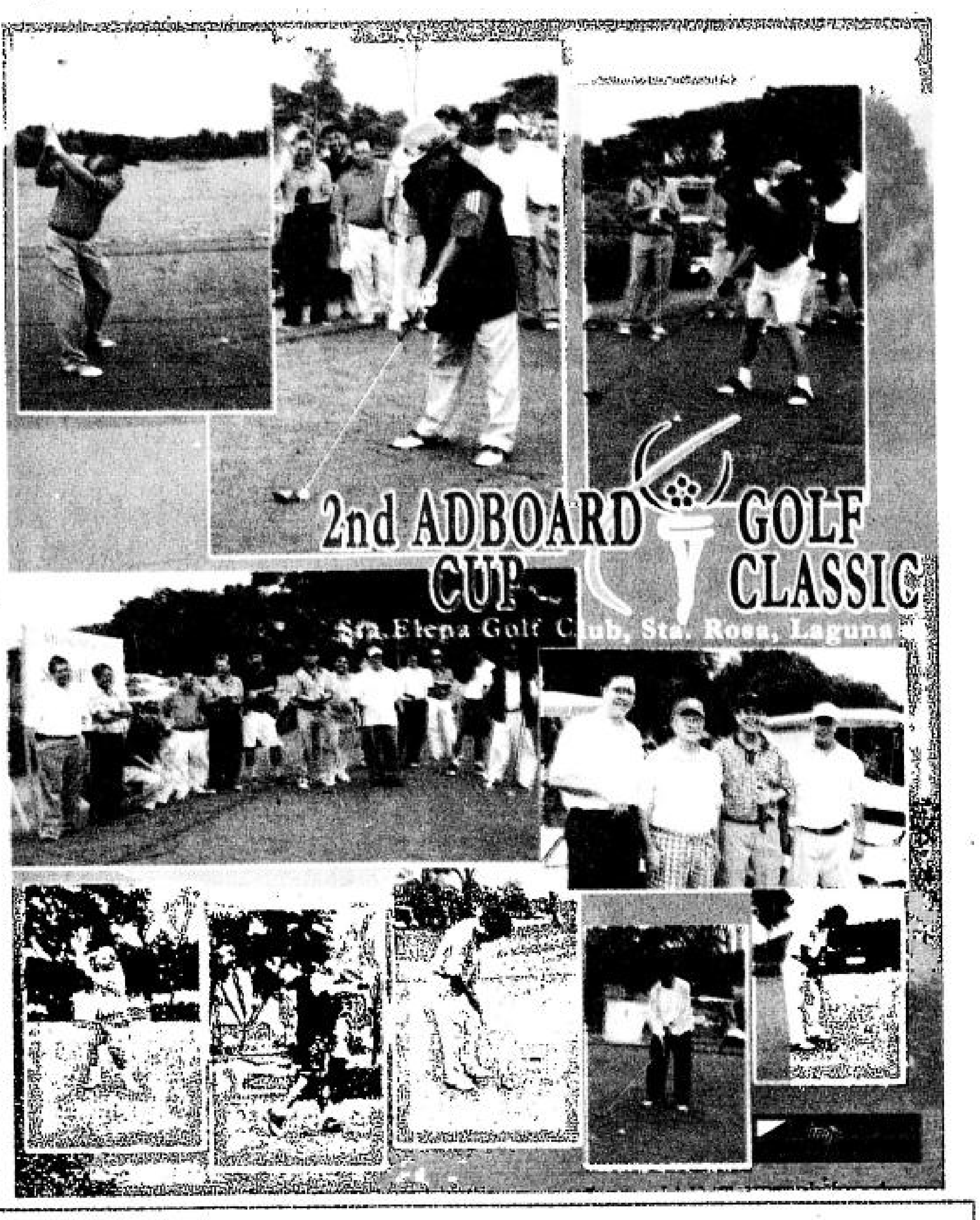
Address : Advertising Associates, Inc.
Unit 2509 Medical Plaza
Bldg. San Miguel Avenue,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel #s : 634-9203/ 634-9112
Fax # : 634-9112
Website : www.oaap.org.ph
Chairman : Carlo Llave
President : Frank Abueva
Exec. Sec. Ms. Rowena P. Reyes

8. PHILIPPINE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ADVERTISERS (PANA)

Address : Unit 2D Torre de Salcedo
Building 184 Salcedo Street,
Legaspi Village Makati City
Tel #s : 894-0012 to 13 or 894-0474 to 75
Fax # : 894-1515 or 894-0472
Website : www.pana.com.ph
Chairman : Susan Dimacali
President : Blen Fernando
Exec. Dir : Dr. Nonie Azarcon, dba

9. UNITED PRINT MEDIA GROUP (UPMG)

Address : Unit 403 Vityland Mega
Plaza Condominium ADB
Avenue cor. Garnet Road
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel #s : 687-4094
Fax # : 687-4094
President : Paciencia M. Pineda
Exec. Sec. : Ms. Elena Vilog


2nd ADBOARD CUP
GOLF CLASSIC
Sta. Elena Golf Club, Sta. Rosa, Laguna

PAG TATALAGA SA TUNGKULIN NG MGA OPISYAL AT PATNUGOT NG ADBOARD SA 2005

PALATUNTUNAN

I. Panalangin

II. Pambansang Awit

III. Wikang Panalubong at Pagkilala sa mga Panauhin
Edgar M. Navalta
Kalihim

IV. Hapunan

V. Pagpapakilala sa Tagapanumpa
Edgar M. Navalta

VI. Pagtatalaga sa Tungkulin ng mga Opisyal at mga Patnugot ng Taong 2005
Kgg. Juan B. Santos
Kalihim, Kagawaran ng Kalakalan at Industriya

VII. Talumpati ng Tagapanumpa
Kalihim Juan V. Santos

VIII. Pagtanggap-galang ng Pangulong-hirang, 2005
Raul S. Alvarez

IX. Pagpapakilala sa Panauhing Tagapagsalita
Edgar M. Navalta

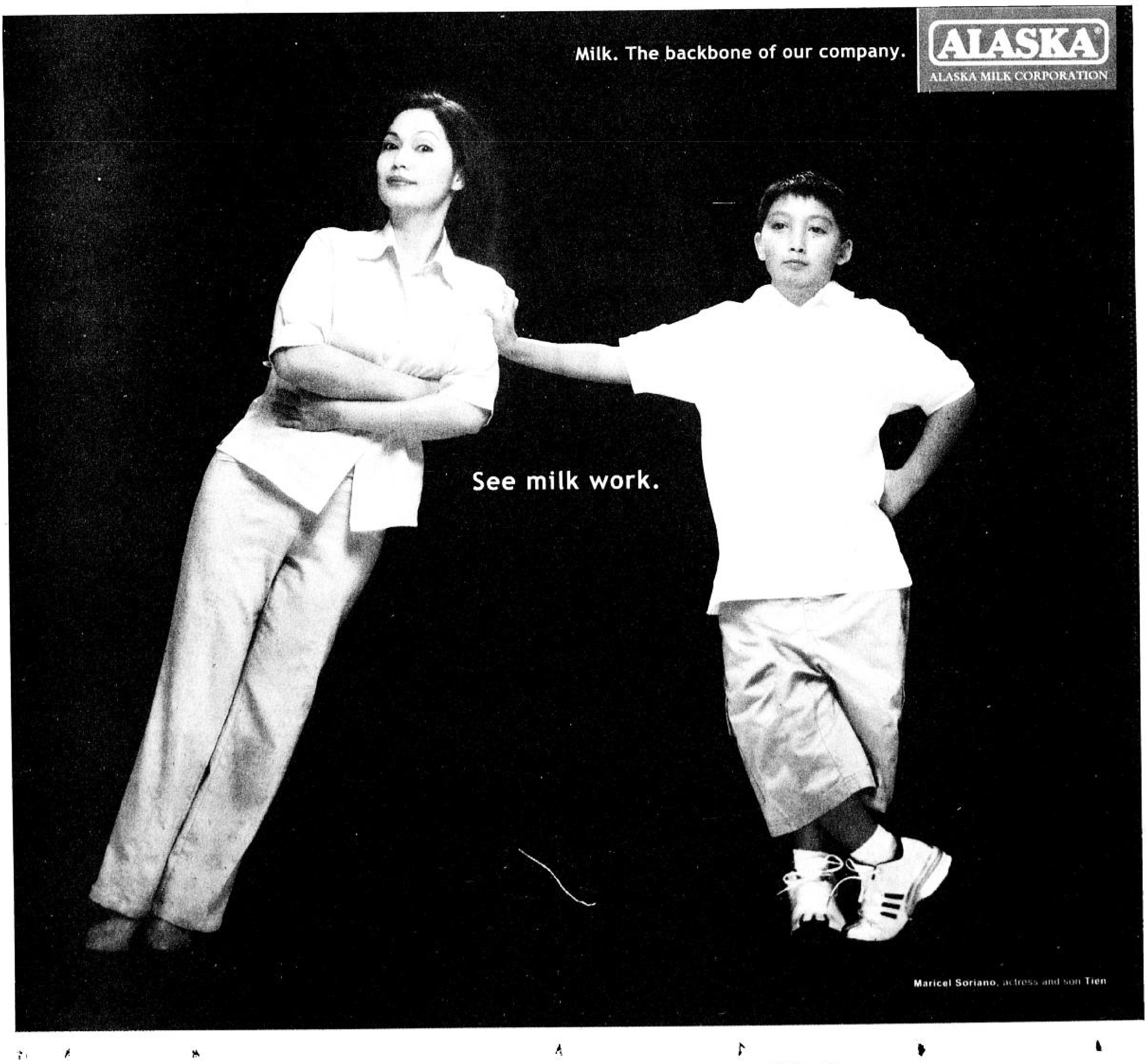
X. Talumpati ng Panauhing Tagapagsalita
Patricia Evangelista
Kinatawan ng Kabataang Mamimili

XI. Paghahandog sa Tagapanumpa at Panauhing Tagapagsalita
Raul S. Alvarez at Edgar M. Navalta

XII. Paghahandog ng Plaque of Appreciation kay Cerge M. Remonde, Pangulo ng Taong 2003-2004
Raul S. Alvarez at Edgar M. Navalta

XIII. Pananalitang Pangwakas
Matec D. Villanueva
Vice-Chairman

Gurong-Pandiriwang:
Edgar M. Navalta
Kalihim


Milk. The backbone of our company.
ALASKA
ALASKA MILK CORPORATION
See milk work.
Maricel Soriano, actress and son Tien

ADBOARD

1st AdBoard Media Forum Oct. 6, 2004 Via Mare Restaurant

The 1st AdBoard Media Forum was held Oct. 6, 2004 at the Via Mare Restaurant, Makati City. Colleagues from the media (broadcast and print) as well as government officials related to advertising were present. Among the topics discussed were the billboard and commercial clutter.

Advertising Board of the Philippines (ADBOARD)

FROM left: Alvin Manacsa (2004 Vice Chair), Susan Dimacali (BBDO/GO) Sec. Gerga Remonde (2004 Chairman), Matec Villanueva (Corp. Secretary), Bien Fernando (Alaska Milk Corp.) and Tessie Celestino-Howard (Airtime Mktg.) (Standing from left) Joselito Yabut (Primax Bctg.), Jun Nicdao (Manila Bctg. Co.), Afif Khodr (SellCo), Jose Sy (Fil-Ads), Jun Perez (Admark), Jones Campos (Globe Telecom), Pepito Olarte (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Raul Alvarez (Treasurer) and Lucien Dy Tioco (Philippine Star).

2nd AdBoard Media Forum Dec. 6, 2004 Via Mare Restaurant

ADBOARD held its 2nd AdBoard Media Forum Dec. 6, 2004 at the Via Mare Restaurant, Makati. Invited Columnists who attended were: Alejandro Roces (Philippine Star), Cecilie Alvarez (NCCA), Emil Jurado (Manila Standard), Domini Torrevillas (Philippine Star), Ethel Timbol (Manila Bulletin), Marieta Giron (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Jarius Bondoc (Philippine Star), Francis Capistrano (Businessworld), Maribel Ongpin (Today) and Cheryl Tiu (2BU, Philippine Daily Inquirer).

Two very good reasons to be thankful.

PLDT

2003 & 2004 OVERALL BEST-MANAGED COMPANY FOR THE 2ND YEAR IN A ROW

And also the MOST AWARDED COMPANY in the ASIAMONEY 2004 BEST-MANAGED COMPANIES POLL

Garnering the plum and the most number of awards in the large companies category

- CLEAREST CORPORATE STRATEGY
- BEST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- BEST INVESTOR RELATIONS
- BEST ANNUAL REPORT
- BEST OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY
- BEST WEBSITE
- MOST IMPROVED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT
- MOST IMPROVED OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY
- BEST CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER - PHILIPPINES (Napoleon Nazareno)

asia money

For believing in us for two straight years, MARAMING, MARAMING SALAMAT PO!

SM SUPERMALLS

Easter Shopping Hunt!

Happy Easter to All!

EASTER TRENDS • EASTER MAKE-OVER • GEAR UP FOR SUMMER FUN • EXCITING SPECIALTY SHOPS • SUMMER FOOD TRIP • FOODCOURT TREATS

Set out on an Easter shopping hunt! Rejoice and feast on these terrific finds.

HANG TEN

PENSHOPPE
French Blue
Summer Splash

PENSHOPPE

SARI-SARI STORE

KAMISETA

great selections mallwide

50% off

3 day sale

march 18.19.20

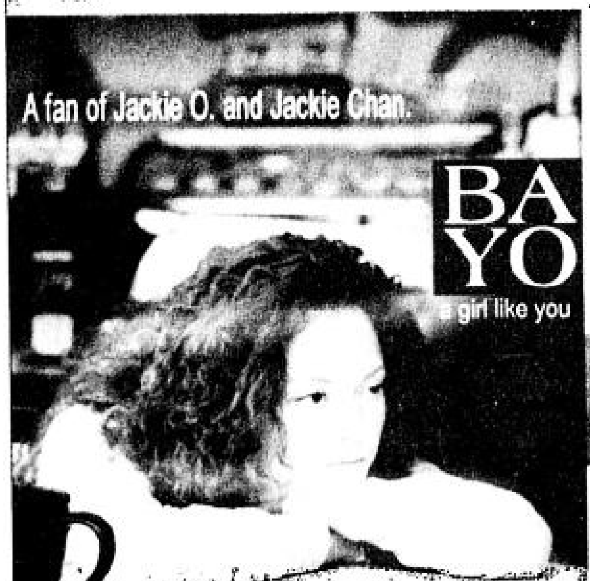
mall hours: 10am - 10pm

Get a chance to WIN appliance or motorcycle prizes

Visit the malls for more details

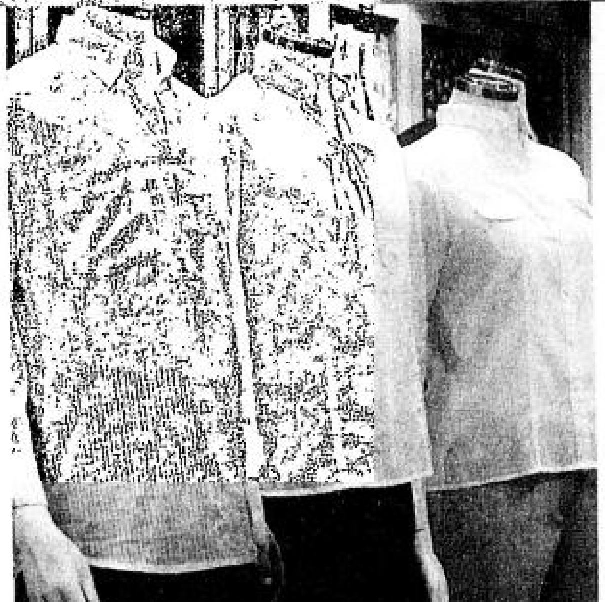
SM City STA. MESA • SM City FAIRVIEW • SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT • SM City DASMARINAS

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1091 Series of 2005


A fan of Jackie O. and Jackie Chan.
BAYO
a girl like you

BAYO

GBX-26 RED BOUTIQUE



ALL BOXED UP

MARKS&SPENCER

ONESIMUS

An All-Natural
Pink Skin
Facial & Body Soap

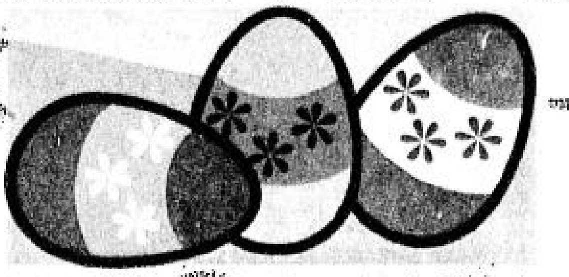
PINK SODA

ESPRIT

ALIXANDRE

SM
SUPERMALLS

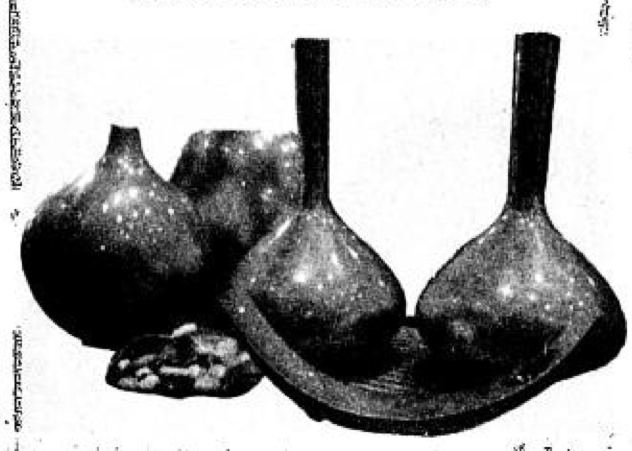
Easter make-over



Seize summer's hottest must-haves! Check out our top brands and shops for hassle-free home improvement ideas.

SIFRA ARTS AND CRAFTS

Looking for quality home furniture, perfect for every room in the house? Get contemporary home furnishings and modern designer pieces from Sifra Arts & Crafts. See the difference!



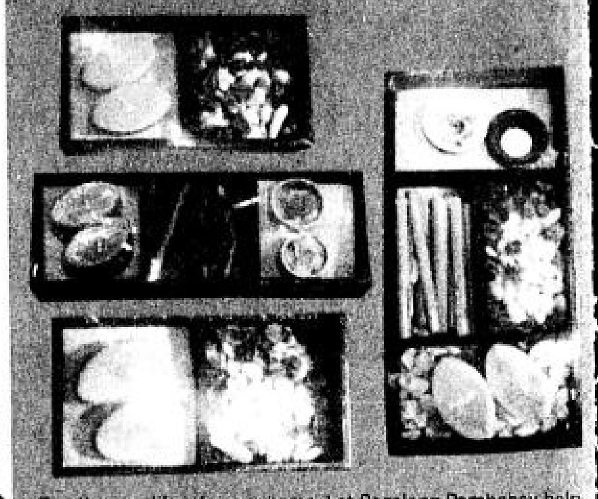
ROBLES HERITAGE

Personalize your piece of heaven. Find wonderful home decors to add drama to your homes.

THE MUSEUM SHOP

Be nostalgic. Get a hold of a unique selection of gifts and decorative items from the Museum Shop.

REGALONG PAMBAHAY



Breathe new life into your home. Let Regalong Pambahay help you set the mood right with our collection of lamps, scented candles, incense and more.

PLAY AND DISPLAY

Give your home a fresh look this summer. Whatever style you want to achieve, you can count on Play and Display home decor and furnishings to create and accentuate your very own paradise.

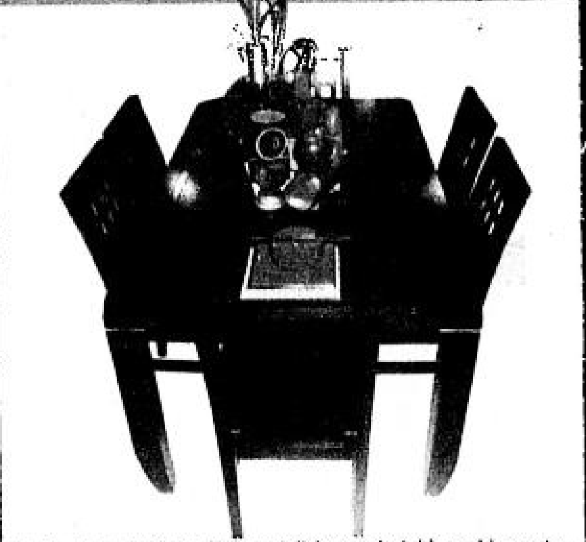
MUEBLES ITALIANO

Make your home a masterpiece. Muebles Italiano has classy, elegant and timeless pieces that will make your home come alive!

FISHER & PAYKEL

Find innovative household appliances from Fisher & Paykel. Gaining favor as a premium brand delivering innovative design and technology, expect unique user-friendly and environment-friendly designs.

METRO LIVING



Live in style. At Metro Living, stylish, comfortable and innovative designs on home furnishings will surely match your lifestyle.

gear up

for Easter fun!

We pump up the summer action as we kick-off with the latest in sports gear and equipment, musical instruments and fashion accessories sure to let you have a blast under the sun!

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

SIEMENS
mobile

Put on a cool shirt and make a statement! Get the latest branded shirt designs from Olympic Village.

PROLINE

Let the summer games begin! Engage in sports activities and play like a pro with these balls from Spalding. Choose from a variety of cool designs available only at Proline.

SPALDING
SPALDING
SPALDING
NBA

CHRIS T. SPORTS

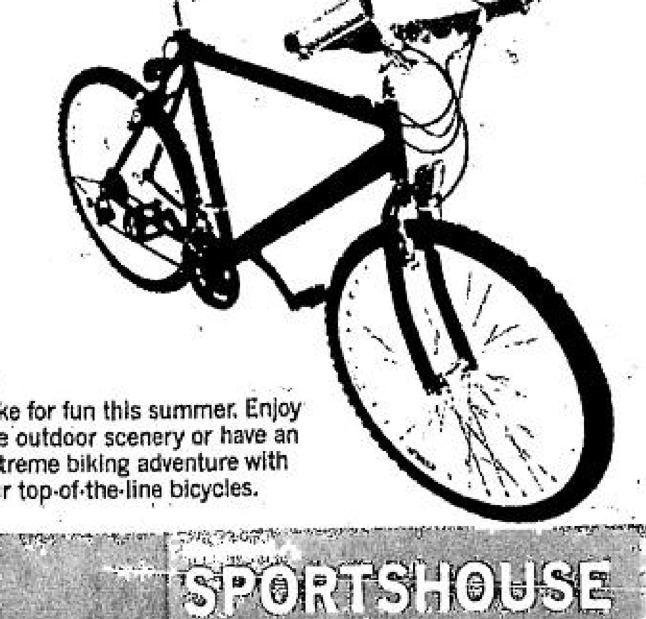
Don't let those flabs get you down. Shape up this summer. Find the perfect gym equipment, cool sporty outfits and gear you'll need for that great summer sweat-out, only here at Chris T. Sports.

JB MUSIC

OVATION GUITARS & AER amplifiers...

The leading names in guitar and acoustics for amplification. Find these products with our wide array of musical instruments, P.A. equipments and accessories at JB Music-- the complete music shop!

BIKE PLUS



Bike for fun this summer. Enjoy the outdoor scenery or have an extreme biking adventure with our top-of-the-line bicycles.

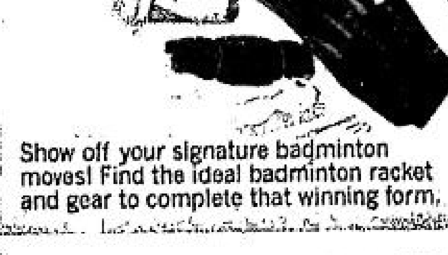
REEBOK

Play your sport and dress the part! Get that trendy sports fitness and casual footwear today. Reebok takes you to the top of your game!

HAHN

Pack up for a thrilling summer adventure. Get the tools and gadgets you need for your outdoor getaway.

SPORTSHOUSE



Show off your signature badminton moves! Find the ideal badminton racket and gear to complete that winning form.

COMIC QUEST

Satisfy your imagination with these must-grab comic book titles from Comic Quest.

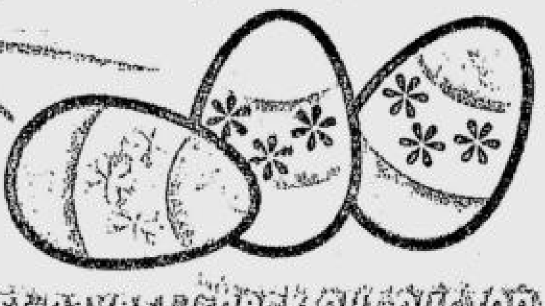
HABAGAT

Feel the rush of the outdoors. Find hip packs or travel gear from Habagat. No doubt Habagat outdoor equipment is very reliable. It's built by hand, tested by nature.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SUPERMALLS

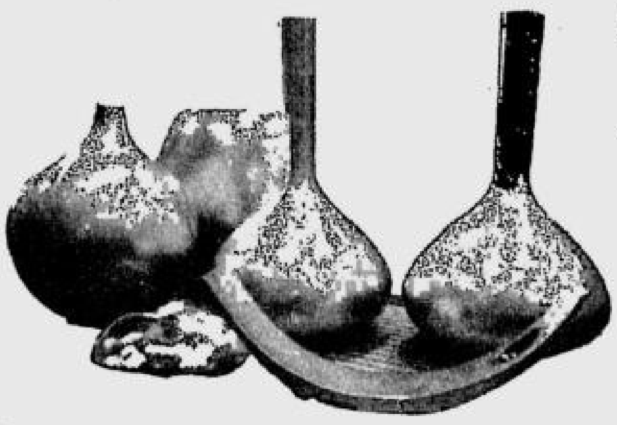
Easter make-over



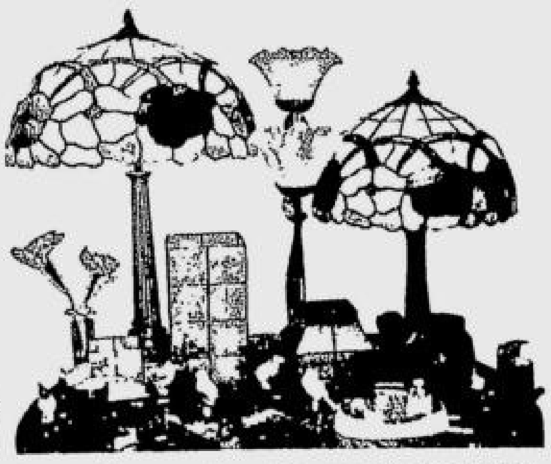
Seize summer's hottest must-haves! Check out our top brands and shops for hassle-free home improvement ideas.

SIFRA ARTS AND CRAFTS

Looking for quality home furniture, perfect for every room in the house? Get contemporary home furnishings and modern designer pieces from Sifra Arts & Crafts. See the difference!



ROBLES HERITAGE

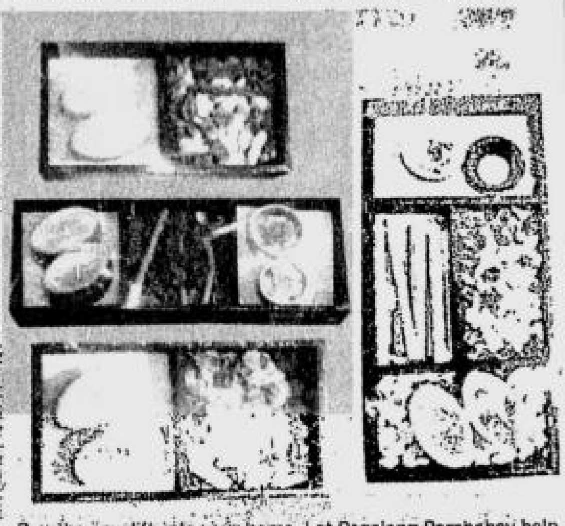


Personalize your piece of heaven. Find wonderful home decors to add drama to your homes.

THE MUSEUM SHOP

Be nostalgic. Get a hold of a unique selection of gifts and decorative items from the Museum Shop.

REGALONG PAMBAHA



Breathe new life into your home. Let Regalong Pambahay help you set the mood right with our collection of lamps, scented candles, incense and more.

P[illegible]

Give your home a fresh look this summer. Whatever style you want to achieve, you can count on Play and Display home decor and furnishings to create and accentuate your very own paradise.

MUE[illegible] ITALIANO

Make your home a masterpiece. Muebles Italiano has classy, elegant and timeless pieces that will make your home come alive!

FISHER & PAYKEL

Find innovative household appliances from [illegible] Paykel. Gaining favor as a premium brand [illegible] innovative design and technology [illegible] user-friendly and environment-friendly design.

METRO LIVING

Live in style. At Metro Living, stylish, comfortable and innovative designs on home furnishings will surely match your lifestyle.

gear up

We pump up the summer action as we kick-off with the latest in sports gear and equipment, musical instruments and fashion accessories sure to let you have a blast under the sun!

OLYMPIC VILLAGE

SIEMENS
Mobile

Put on a cool shirt and make a statement! Get the latest branded shirt designs from Olympic Village.

PROLINE

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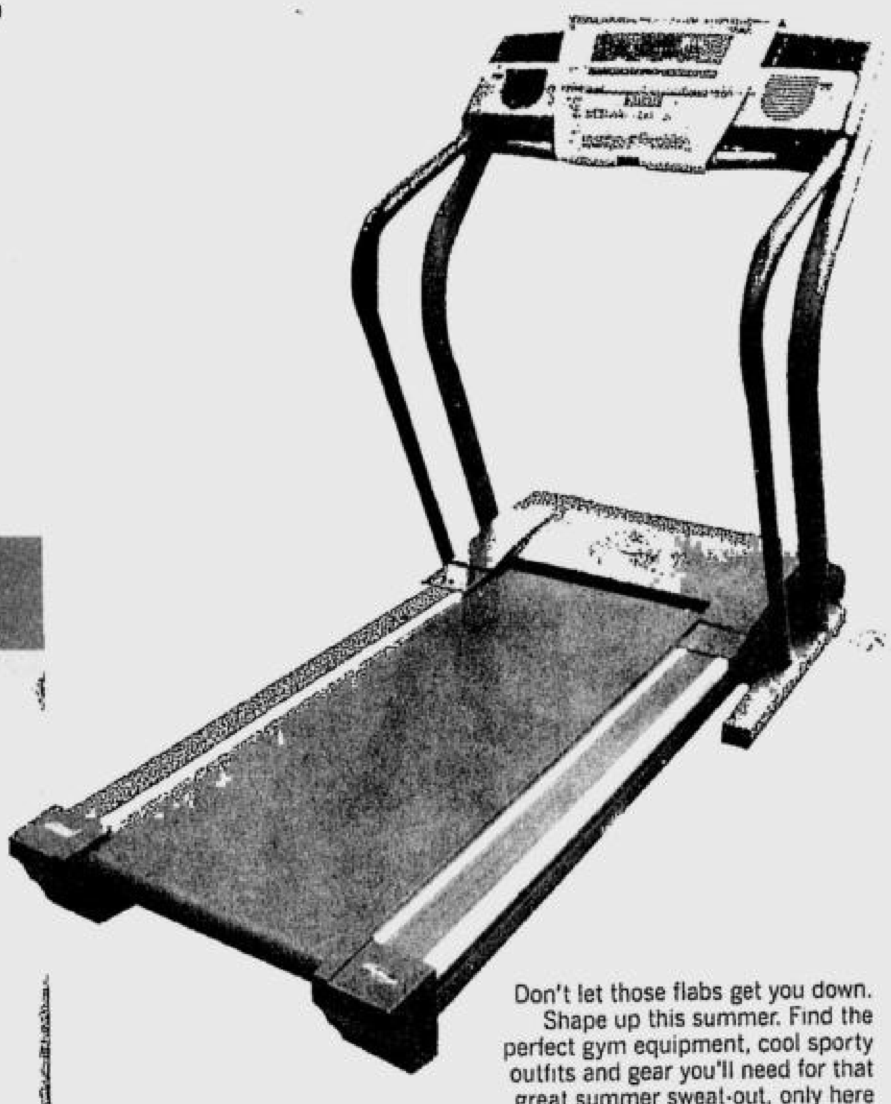
SPALDING
SPALDING
SPF 15
SPALDING
NBA

CHRIS T. SPORTS



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SM
SUPERMALLS

HOT & COOL easter treats

Here are some ideas for keeping cool during summer's hottest days. Check out our irresitible and tempting easter offers!

Fresh Green Salad

JOLLIBEE

Good Food, Great Mobiles!

OVER 1,000 PHONES TO BE GIVEN AWAY

NESTEA
NESTEA
NESTEA
NOKIA

More food choices, more chances of winning great phones for every P100 food purchase inclusive of medium size Nestea or Nestea Lite at SM Foodcourt.

NESTEA

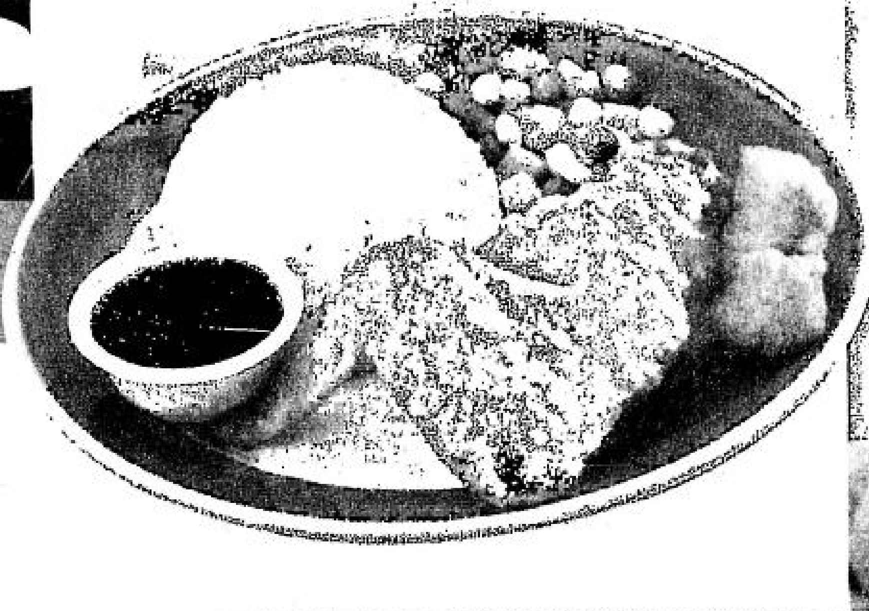
making great things possible
Globe

HOT AND READY
FROM JAN. 1 - MAR. 13, 2005

See Mechanics Posters for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6124 Series of 2004

Something new from
TEXAS CHICKEN
Nestea
Nestea
Nestea

TEXAS



CHICKEN COMPANY

KUSINA NI GRACIA

KFC

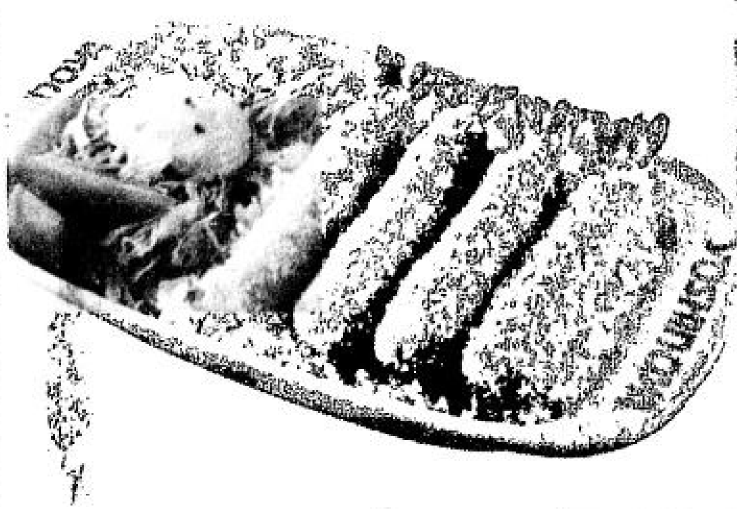
fruit magic

FRUIT MAGIC

HENLIN

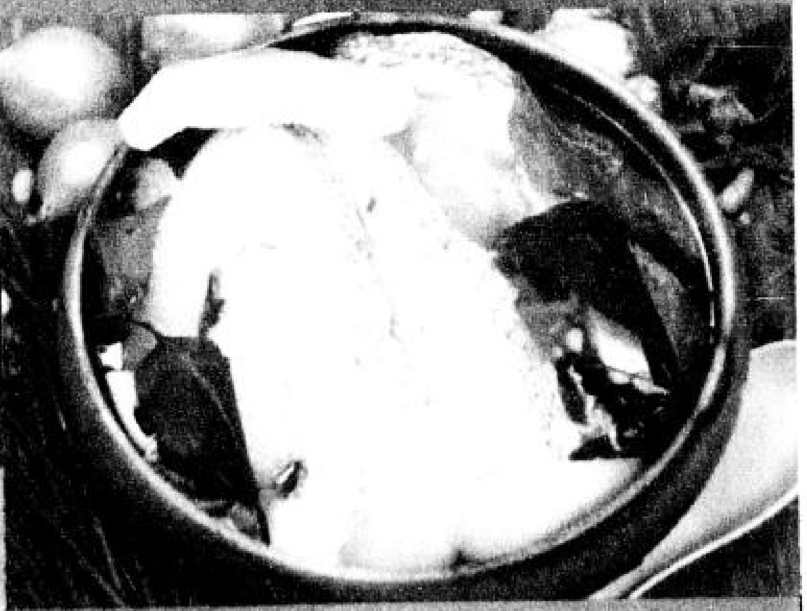
RED RIBBON

TEPPAN SIZZLERS



YOSHINOYA

SIZZLING PLATE



CEBU FIESTA

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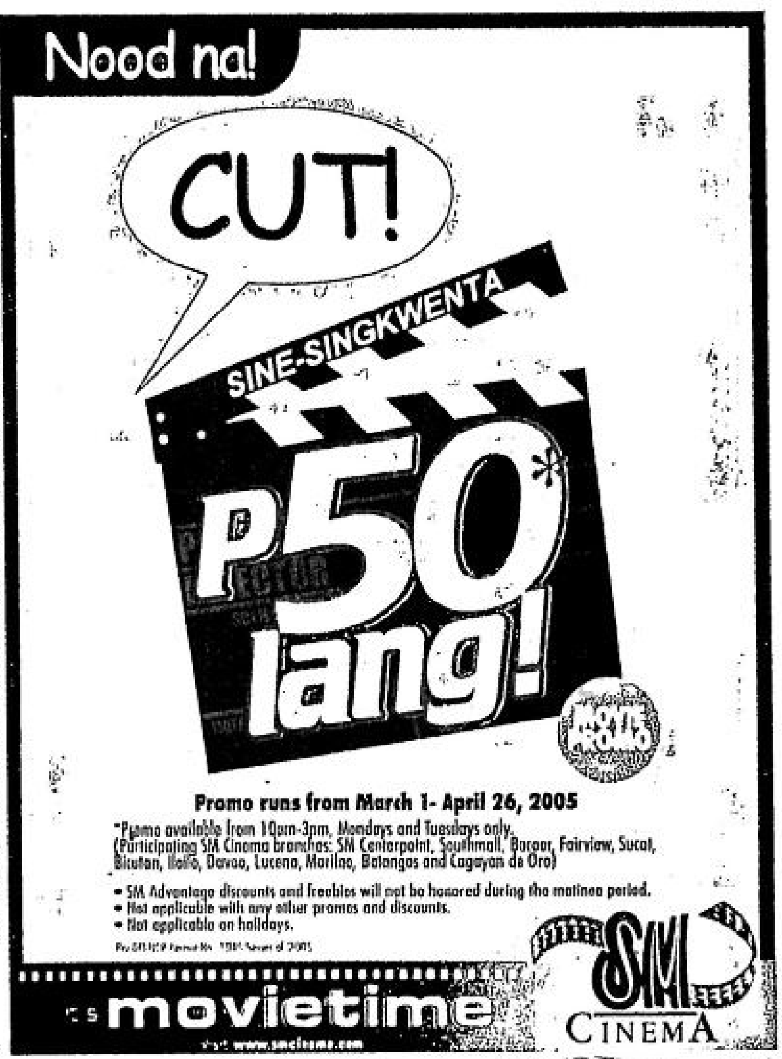
Exciting Easter Getaways @ SM
SUPERMALLS


Nood na!
CUT!
SINE-SINGKWENTA
P50* lang!

Promo runs from March 1- April 26, 2005

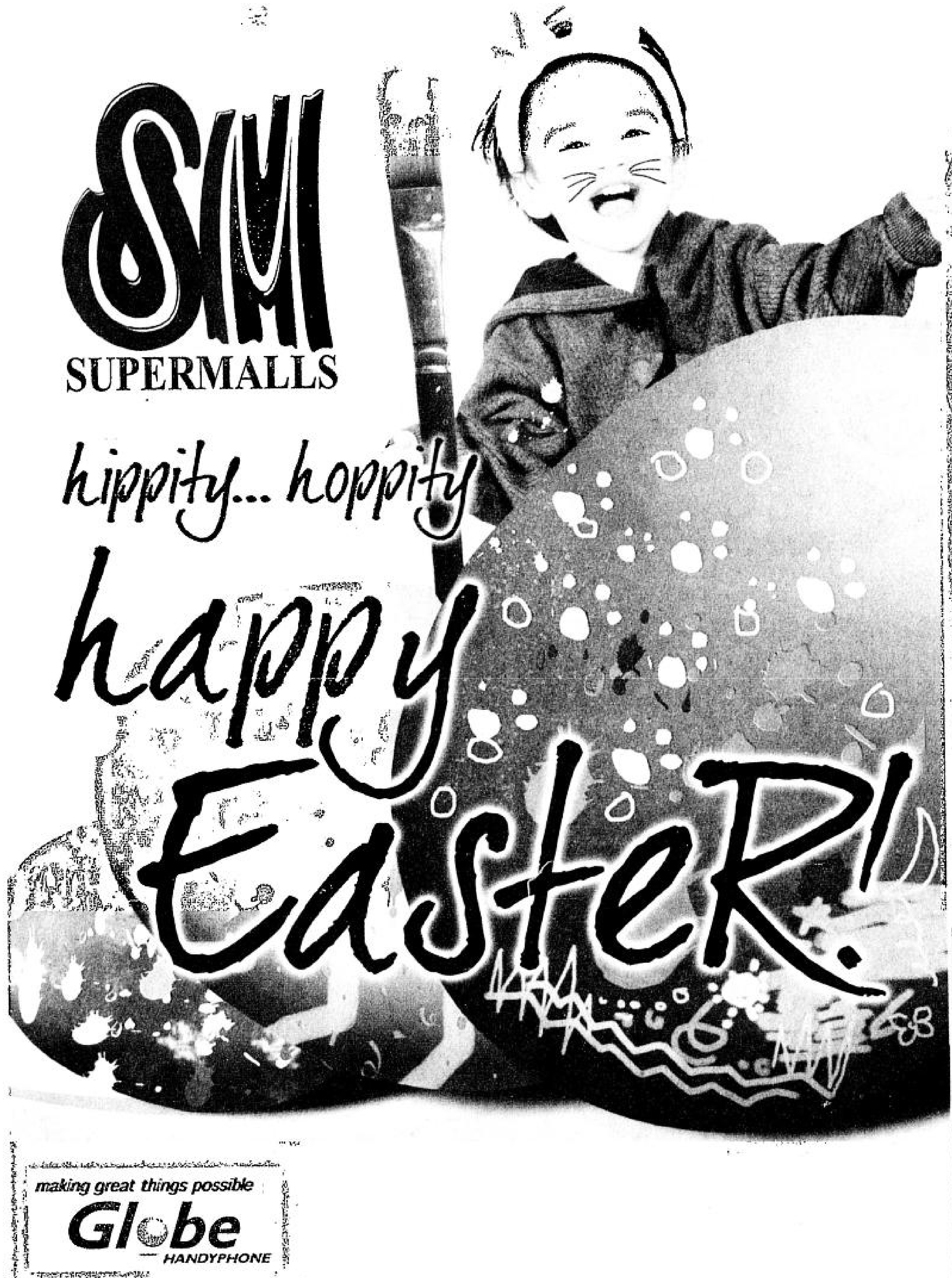
*Promo available from 10am-3pm, Mondays and Tuesdays only.
(Participating SM Cinema branches: SM Centerpoint, Southmall, Bacoor, Fairview, Sucat, Bicutan, Iloilo, Davao, Lucena, Marilao, Batangas and Cagayan de Oro)

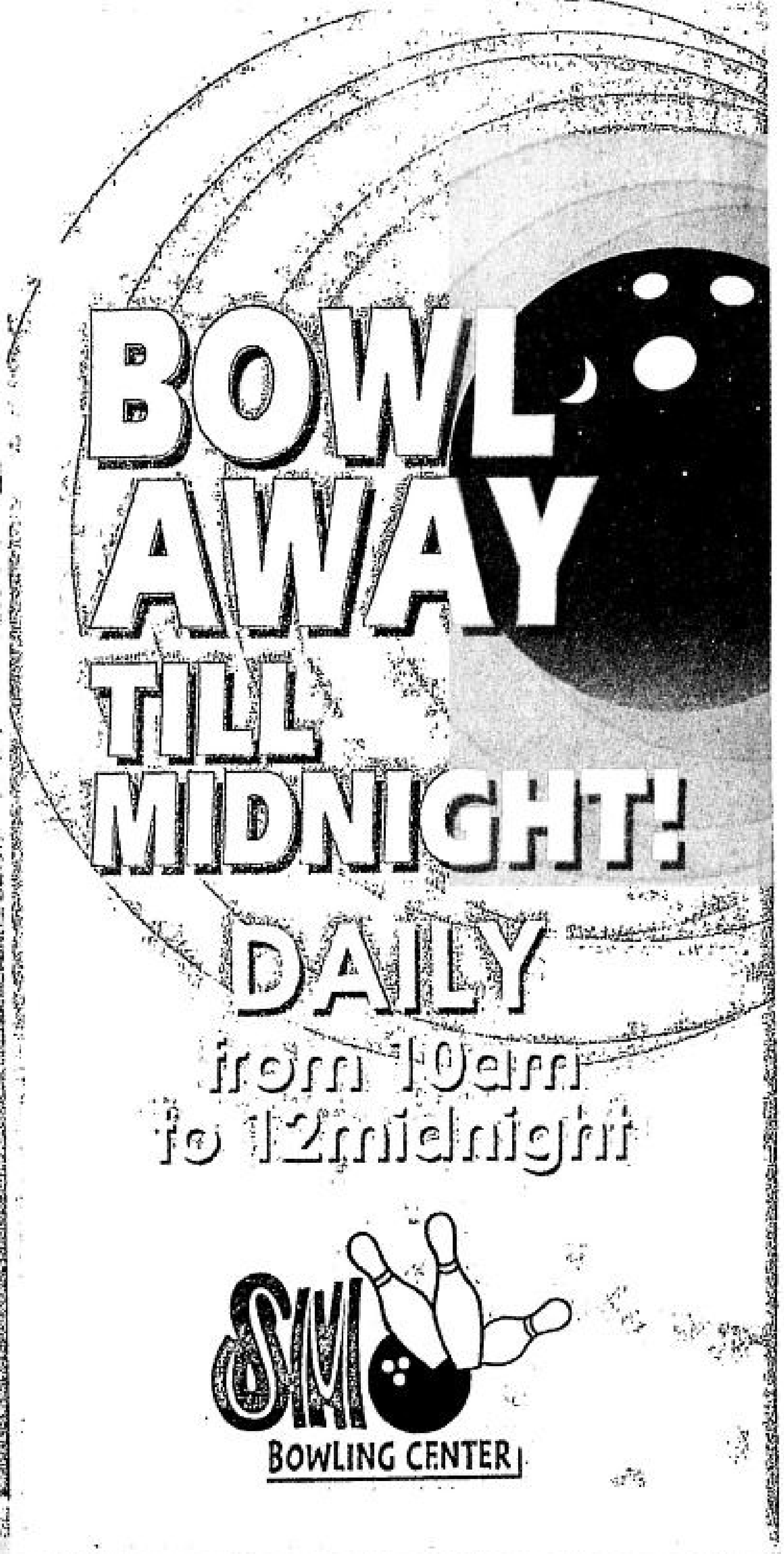
- SM Advantage discounts and freebies will not be honored during the matinee period.
- Not applicable with any other promos and discounts.
- Not applicable on holidays.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. [illegible] Series of 2005

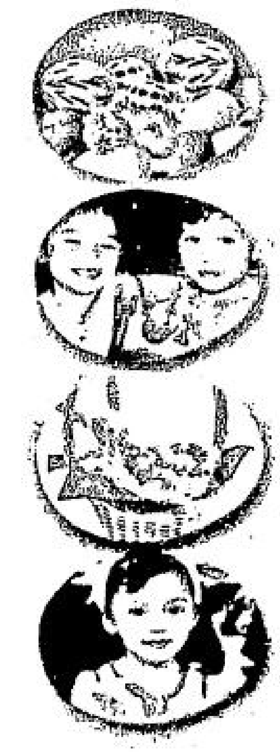
movietime
visit www.smcinema.com

SM CINEMA


SM
SUPERMALLS
hippity... hoppity
happy Easter!


BOWL AWAY TILL MIDNIGHT!
DAILY
from 10am
to 12midnight
SM BOWLING CENTER

making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE



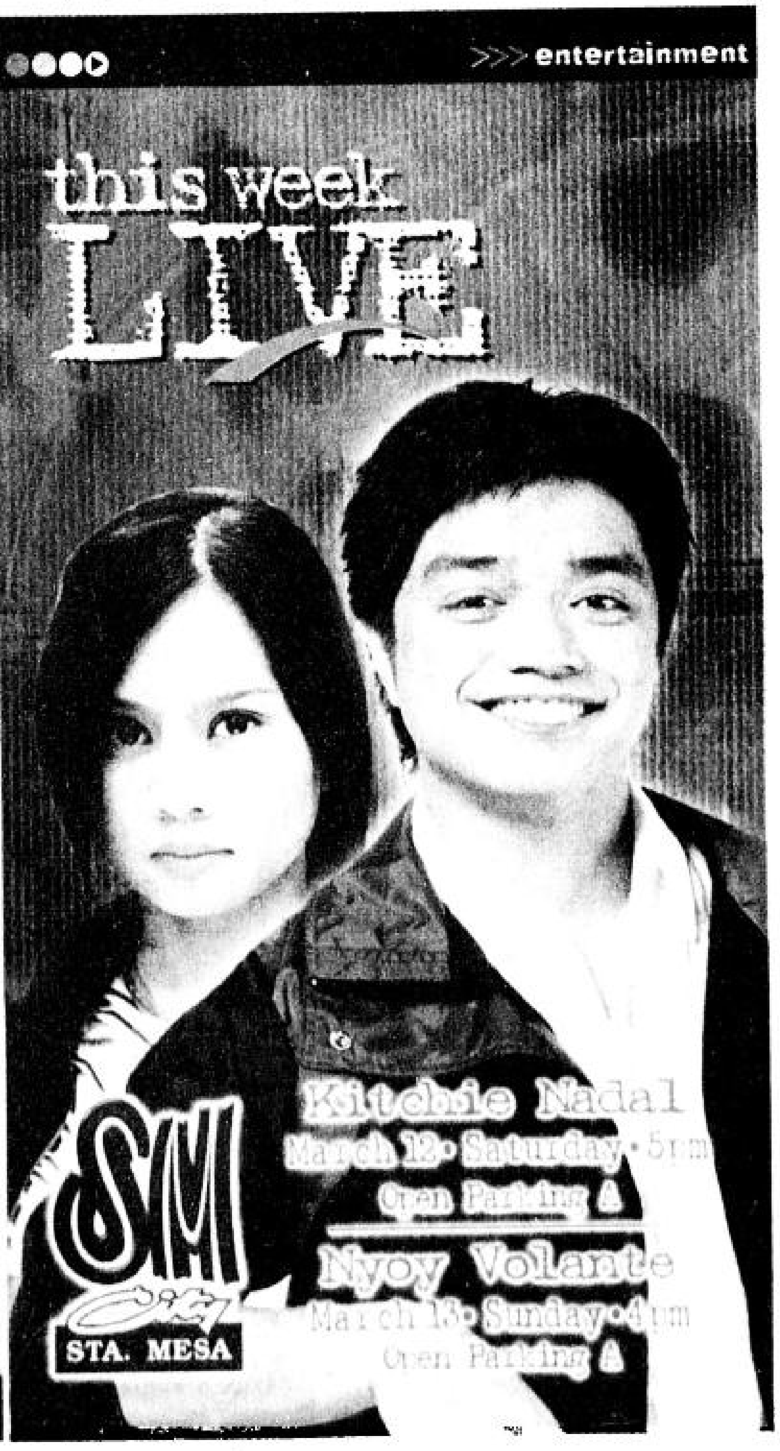
Egg-citing Easter Egg Design Contest
Easter's most recognizable icon gets a make-over from kids bent on outsmarting one another in designing one-of-a-kind eggs that bear their distinct and imaginative stamp.

Easter Egg Painting Activity
Show off the artist in you. Dabble with fun figures and pretty patterns. Add a splash of color here and there. Do them all in strokes uniquely your own with the Easter egg as your medium.

Easter Egg Hunt
And what's the celebration without the traditional Easter Egg Hunt? Come in a bunny costume because there's no stopping the excitement as you and your friends eagerly wonder what the next egg has in store for you.

See mechanics posters for details.

SM City North Edsa • SM City Fairview • SM City Manila • SM Megamall • SM City Sta. Mesa • SM City Bicutan • SM Supercenter Sucat • SM City Bacoor • SM Southmall • SM City Dasmariñas
SM City Batangas • SM City Baguio • SM City Marilao • SM City Pampanga • SM City Lucena • SM City Cebu • SM City Davao • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cagayan de Oro


entertainment
this week LIVE
SM City STA. MESA

Kitchie Nadal
March 12 • Saturday • 5pm
Open Parking A

Nyoy Volante
March 13 • Sunday • 4pm
Open Parking A